

Kuwait charges 33 suspected plotters

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has charged 33 people, including a Briton and two Iraqis, with plotting to overthrow the government, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said Wednesday. It quoted a state security official as saying some of the defendants, 13 of whom are at large, could get the death penalty or be jailed for life. The official said other charges included conspiracy to murder and publicly insulting the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah. He said the head of the state security court would set a trial date. He listed the accused as a Briton of Lebanese origin, 18 Kuwaitis, nine Iraqis, two Iraqis, two Lebanese and one other non-Kuwaiti. He did not give their names or say when they were arrested. Late last year, Kuwait fired two out of 17 pro-Iranian militants who completed five-year jail sentences for their part in the 1983 bombings of the U.S. and French embassies in Kuwait. Release of the 17 has been demanded by several pro-Iranian groups, including the hijackers of a Kuwaiti ship last April. A British embassy spokesman later identified the Briton among the defendants as Sami Hassan Hajjaji, 40, a science lecturer at Kuwait University, who he said was in custody.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Rainfall to continue today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — More rain is expected in the Kingdom until at least Thursday evening as a result of a cold front which affected the country over the past three days, according to the Department of Meteorology Wednesday.

The department said that the cold front which is centred over Cyprus was expected to wane gradually as temperatures rise slightly to reach 10 Celsius.

The department warned of poor visibility along most roads, especially during the night and the early morning hours of Thursday.

According to the department the area around the University of Jordan near Amman received 60 millimetres of rain fall by Wednesday noon, the highest recorded amount of rain in the country during the past three days.

In Aqaba gulf north westerly winds were expected and calm sea.

Reservoirs behind dams built in Jordan now have a total of 83.5 million cubic metres of water, collected from rain that fell in the Kingdom during the present winter season, according to Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani.

He said that stored water behind King Talal Dam is now estimated at 61 million cubic metres; behind Wadi Al Arab Dam, 14 million; Sharhabil Dam, three million; Wadi Shu'eb 1.5 million and Kafra 3.65 million.

He said that farms in the Jordan Valley region, which normally benefit from this stored water in the dry season, will be requiring less amounts of water in the coming summer because of the heavy rain that fell in the Kingdom in the past few days.



Crown Prince receives Tunisian Minister

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, received at the Royal Court Wednesday visiting Tunisian Minister of Tourism Mohammed Jighani in the presence of Minister of Tourism Yassir Hikmat. They discussed Jordanian-Tunisian cooperation in tourism. The Tunisian Minister

held meetings with several ministers, including Hikmat, to discuss tourism. And on Tuesday, he paid a visit to the ancient Nabatean city of Petra in southern Jordan accompanied by Ministry of Tourism Secretary General Nasri Atallah (Petra photo)

Nuseibeh calls for guaranteeing Palestinian children's rights

BUDAPEST (Petra) — Jordan has urged world parliaments to conclude an agreement that can guarantee children's rights to living and education.

The idea was presented to the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) session, which is being held in Budapest, the Hungarian capital, by member of the Upper House of Parliament Hazem Nuseibeh.

Nuseibeh said that such an agreement should be binding to all nations and should ensure the

rights of children of minorities as well.

Nuseibeh referred to the situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories where he said thousands of Palestinian children are being deprived of education and displaced. "Thousands of Palestinian children have been displaced as a result of occupation, and are now rendered homeless and without identity."

Nuseibeh said that Jordan, along with many nations, have already enacted laws through

Parliament to provide protection to children and to ensure compulsory education, as well as the right to immunisation against diseases which kill millions of children.

Earlier, the head of Jordan's delegation to the IPU meeting here, met with the heads of Arab delegations attending the sessions and discussed world affairs, the Middle East issue and prospects for holding the projected international Middle East peace conference.

Clashes continue in Lebanese capital Beirut lay gripped in fear of all-out war

BEIRUT (R) — Occasional bursts of machinegun fire replaced savage shelling by Falangist and opposition foes Wednesday as Lebanon's battered capital lay gripped in fear of all-out war.

At the American University Hospital (AUH), the moans and screams of the wounded and the cries of bereaved relatives filled wards where nurses tried to cope with the toll from "black Tuesday" — at least 43 dead and 140 wounded.

"For the first time in Lebanon's civil war, there is no one capable of mediating a lasting ceasefire. We're back at square one. We're back to April 13, 1975," said one pro-Syrian opposition politician, referring to the date Lebanon's civil war started.

Political and military sources said fighting could break out anytime because no final settlement had been reached in the lull.

The artillery fire on "black Tuesday," as one newspaper termed the day, was the first confrontation between two rival governments which took power last September when a divided parliament failed to elect a new president.

Most city streets stayed deserted Wednesday with residents fearing a repeat of the shelling and rocket fire which hit hospitals, universities, schools and bakeries.

Shops and apartment blocks lay in smoking ruins on both sides of the eight kilometre long "green line" battlezone dividing Beirut into east and west.

Some residents could be seen cleaning their shelters while a handful ventured cautiously out to buy bread and stockpile food from the few shops that opened.

Tuesday's battles, with artillery gunners on both sides pounding residential areas in the city and outlying towns, were the most ferocious since 1986.

Nurses at the American University Hospital said Wednesday that the rush of casualties to the hospital reminded them of the bloodiest days of Lebanon's 14 years of civil war.

"The flesh of some of the victims melted away to the bones. It was a terrifying sight. The hospital was a mad house... Shells landed here and we had people dying on our hands," said one nurse.

Most of the casualties were still in intensive care or in the operating room. Even if they survived, hospital sources said, many would either be paralysed, handicapped or disfigured for life.

Falangist security sources said Syrian troops, part of a 25,000 force stationed in Lebanon since 1976, were reinforcing their positions and erecting rocket-launchers and artillery batteries in hills overlooking Falangist areas.

In Riyadh, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara denied that Syria had any role in the fighting.

"Syria is not a party to the fighting in Lebanon," he told Reuters between sessions of an Islamic foreign ministers' meeting.

Witnesses said pro-Syrian Druze fighters in the Shouf Mountains ringing Beirut were deploying multi-barrel rocket-launchers and Soviet-made T-54 tanks from their barracks.

Political sources said U.S. Ambassador John MacCarthy and the chairman of an Arab League Committee, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, contacted the heads of Lebanon's rival cabinets, which have been locked in bitter conflict.

Major-General Michel Aoun, heads a military government, vying for power with a civilian administration of Acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss.

The sources said MacCarthy and Sabah urged the rivals to end the shelling which had killed mainly civilians, including school-children.

Hoss urged Sabah to send an Arab League Committee to investigate Aoun's charges that Syrian troops took part in the fighting, saying that Aoun made the allegations to justify his policy of seeking to oust Syria from Lebanon.

Aoun, who commands 15,000 mainly Falangist troops, voiced his intention to drive Syrian forces from Lebanon.



Al Hussein, Howe discuss Mideast

LONDON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received British Foreign Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe at his residence.

During the meeting, they discussed developments in the Middle East and the efforts exerted to convene an international peace conference.

U.S. must spell out stand on Mideast, PLO says

TUNIS (R) — The United States must define terrorism and clearly spell out its position on Middle East issues in its next talks with the PLO, a leading member of the group said Wednesday.

Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), deputy leader of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fateh Movement, told Reuters there was an urgency about the talks because extremists were waiting to sabotage the PLO's peace strategy.

The meeting, which is expected in the next two weeks, will be the second formal session since the United States agreed to open a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation last December.

The PLO has accused the new U.S. administration of dragging its feet on Middle East policy and of bringing up minor issues in a series of informal contacts between U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau and PLO representative Hakam Balawi.

"(The next talks) should go into the fundamental issues, most importantly the U.S. attitude towards a comprehensive settlement... towards the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and its position on an international peace conference," Abu Iyad said.

"Then we must define terrorism, so we no longer disagree on this, since we consider that the intifada and the armed struggle against the occupation are not terrorism," he added.

More than 400 people, most of them Palestinians, have died in the 15-month-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The United States sees an international peace conference as a possible means to direct negotiations, while the PLO says the conference should provide guarantees for any agreements reached in direct talks beforehand.

Abu Iyad, who last month appealed to Israelis to start direct talks, said the PLO was prepared to discuss everything in such talks but insisted they should lead to the conference.

"Everything's on the table. We are ready to talk about anything and there's nothing we are afraid to discuss," he said.

He said time was not on the side of peace.

"There are many extremist forces, Arab, Islamic and Palestinian, lying in ambush for peace to fail so that they can attack the policy of the PLO and say the policy was wrong."

"The Americans and the Europeans must realise this and understand why we are asking for a step towards peace," Abu Iyad said.

Secretary of State James Baker suggested Tuesday that Israel might have to negotiate peace with the PLO in direct talks.



Government troops prepare to deploy around Kabul as the Mujahedeen fighters increase their pressure on Jalalabad (Sygma photo)

Battle for Jalalabad reaches stalemate

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — The 10-day-old battle for Jalalabad seemed at a stalemate Wednesday but the attacking rebels said they were keeping up pressure on the eastern Afghan city.

Afghan rebel sources said two days of comparative lull had followed eight days of fierce clashes which caused heavy casualties and sent thousands fleeing to neighbouring Pakistan.

Several rebel commanders had predicted Jalalabad would fall in a few days when they launched the offensive to secure a possible base for their provisional government.

But after the rebels captured the well-fortified garrison of Samarkand, east of the provincial capital, minefields and heavy bombing by government planes slowed their progress.

The guerrilla sources in the north-west Pakistan city of Peshawar said that for the past three days rebel forces had been some 10 to 15 kilometres from Jalalabad.

But morale among the Western-backed Mujahedeen rebels was high after their initial successes, witnesses said.

"The Mujahedeen are in very high spirits," said one traveller just back in Peshawar from the Jalalabad area. "They seem to have no fear and walk around openly though fighting is so close."

The rebels captured a government post near Jalalabad airport Wednesday and another in the Behsud Mountains north of the city, the guerrillas sources said.

"If the Mujahedeen control these mountains, they can easily hit anywhere in Jalalabad," one guerrilla official said.

A spokesman for the Mahaz-I-Milli rebel party said its units had shelled an army garrison outside

Jalalabad, setting fire to an ammunition dump and a wheat store.

Both the rebels and the Kabul government dispute each other's accounts of the fighting and independent confirmation is not usually available.

Both sides have sent reinforcements to Jalalabad. But one guerrilla official said they were already enough Mujahedeen in the area.

"One cause of the high casualties is that there are too many Mujahedeen there," he said.

The traveller just back from the Jalalabad area said Mujahedeen were coming from every-

where. "They are in their thousands there," he added.

Meanwhile the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has begun what it plans to be a regular medical air shuttle between Peshawar and the Kabul.

A chartered plane carried some 1.7 tonnes of mainly medical supplies to Kabul Tuesday for an ICRC surgical hospital there and more flights were planned for the future, an ICRC official said.

"I don't know the schedule yet, but we hope to make regular flights," ICRC delegate Martin Butler told Reuters.

On his arrival in Kabul after a two-week visit to India, Abdul Wakil was asked by reporters if New Delhi had agreed to send food and other supplies.

"Yes, the Indians have accepted," he said. "They think there is no barrier to this taking place." Asked when the aid would be sent, he replied: "Very soon."

A senior Afghan official said earlier this week that Britain and France had effectively stopped the relief missions by ensuring that insurance for the planes was impossible to obtain.

OIC seeks compromise on Rushdie

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Iranian delegates to the foreign ministers meeting of the 45-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) lobbied heavily Wednesday for support for Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's death sentence against novelist Salman Rushdie.

Delegation leader Mohammad Tashkiri angrily complained to the Associated Press that Rushdie had "insulted all the Islamic values, the Koran and the wives of the Prophet Mohammad."

Tashkiri insisted that the Indian-born British author be judged according to the Sharia, or Koranic Law — which he said requires the death sentence for blasphemy.

Conference sources said a number of delegates were trying to work out a compromise between Shiite Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia on the issue. Iran wants Rushdie killed without trial, while Saudi Arabia insists he be denounced and given a chance to do penance.

The conference is to listen to Tashkiri explain his country's stance on the Rushdie affair during Thursday's morning session.

The sources said it was highly unlikely that any OIC member will support Iran's bid to spill Rushdie's blood. They said that almost all delegations will readily condemn the book as an affront to

Muslims and Islam. The majority of the delegates insist that Rushdie cannot be condemned to death without a fair trial and be given ample opportunity to repent.

Ambassador Amr Moussa, deputy head of the Egyptian delegation told AP that the Rushdie affair "is not an international political issue. It is just a book and an individual."

"We do not accept the verdict given by one cleric of the Islamic establishment, nor do we consider a book like this reason enough for conflict between East and West or Islam and Christianity. This is wrong," he said.

Rabin chides U.S. for asking Israel to ease tension in occupied lands

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin hit back Wednesday at U.S. calls for Israel to ease tensions in the occupied territories saying Washington should address such requests to the PLO.

Rabin, who has directed the battle against the 15-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, also rejected suggestions by Secretary of State James Baker that Israel may have to talk peace with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

He said the United States, Israel's closest ally, should back his plan to elect Palestinian negotiating partners in the territories.

In a speech to Jerusalem businessmen, the defence minister reacted irritably to U.S. statements which he said implied

Israel started the violence. At least 401 Arabs and 16 Jews have died in the unrest.

"I suggest to those who have a dialogue with the PLO that instead of appealing to us to ease up, maybe they should talk to them."

The United States ended a 13-year ban on contacts with the PLO last December after the group renounced terrorism and recognised the Jewish state's right to exist. Israel still regards the PLO as a terrorist group.

U.S. officials have said Washington would ask Israel to improve the atmosphere in the West Bank and Gaza by releasing jailed Palestinians, limiting demonstrations without trial and reopening Arab schools.

The Palestinians would be asked to stop the violence in the occupied territories and halt

guerrilla infiltration attempts from Lebanon under the U.S. scheme.

In the Gaza Strip Wednesday, Israeli troops arrested two teenagers who attacked a border army base hours before Israel handed back the Red Sea beach resort of Tabat to Egyptian sovereignty.

The army said it had uncovered a Palestinian gang suspected of killing a Gaza Arab and wounding another accused by Palestinians of helping Israel. An army statement said security forces arrested 24 suspects.

Meanwhile in the West Bank, three Palestinians, including a 9-year-old boy, were shot and wounded in clashes with troops, Arab hospital officials said.

The army said it was checking the report.

Taba returns to its rightful owners

TABA (Agencies) — Israel handed back the Red Sea beach resort of Taba to Egypt Wednesday, completing its withdrawal from the last speck of Egyptian territory occupied in the 1967 Middle East war.

Israeli policemen withdrew without ceremony from the 700-metre beach strip, leaving an Israeli-built luxury hotel and holiday village under Egyptian sovereignty after international arbitration ended a seven-year border dispute.

The Egyptian flag was raised at noon (1000 GMT) at the new border point. Dozens of Egyptians chanted "Allahu Akbar" (God is Great) while Jewish demonstrators shouted "the people of Israel live."

Israeli officials said the pullout removed the last obstacle to

warming cool relations between Israel and Egypt. But Egyptian officials forecast no major improvement until Israel moved on the Palestinian problem.

The Israeli demonstrators, a mixture of hotel workers and Jewish settlers from the occupied Gaza Strip, sang the national anthem in protest at the return of the occupied land.

Israeli police earlier arrested about 20 hotel workers demanding compensation who lay down in the road and refused to move.

Israel's two main radio stations ran live broadcasts on the Taba

withdrawal, counting down the hours, then minutes until the handover.

Hardline Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who has vowed to hold on to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, also occupied in the 1967 war, appeared concerned to avoid setting any precedent for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territory.

"The Egyptian flag will fly from today and forever," Ahmad Messeri, Egypt's consul in the nearby Israeli resort of Eilat, declared after raising the flag.

Israel lowered its flag in Taba under cover of darkness Tuesday night and Israeli officials expressed relief that Egypt had decided not to hold immediate political festivities at the site.

"The feeling is that the two sides decided to make this ceremony on this particular day in a

very discreet way, without a high profile and we certainly think it is desirable to continue this way," said Yitzhak Lior, deputy director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

President Hosni Mubarak is expected to visit Taba Sunday for celebrations marking its return to Egypt.

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Alon Liel told reporters on the spot: "We see a lot of hope. We hope very much it will be possible to live here together and the hotel will thrive and there will be many Israeli tourists alongside the Egyptian tourists."

Egypt bought the resort facilities for some \$38 million but the former Israeli owner will continue to manage the hotel and Israeli citizens will be able to visit Taba without visas.

Butros Ghali, Egypt's minister

of state for foreign affairs, said resolving the conflict over Taba peacefully "is a victory for the rule of international law" and the provisions of the 1979 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt.

"It opens the door to joint actions between Egypt and Israel to solve the Palestinian problem," he said in Cairo, stressing that no comprehensive Middle East peace was possible unless Palestinians had the right to self-determination.

Haim Ramon of the Labour Party in Israel's divided government, said the turnover served as a useful precedent, showing Israel should concentrate on economic and security arrangements instead of arguments over sovereignty.

"We mustn't insist on symbols but on substantial issues. If we start negotiating now (over the

West Bank and Gaza), maybe we can achieve this. If we wait another five or six years, we will lose everything," he said in an interview in occupied Jerusalem.

On the beach, green beretted Israeli border police emptied their guard hut at the former barbed wire frontier. They also said there would be no ceremony and one added they would simply leave "as usual, at the end of the shift at noon."

Nearby, Dudu Oren, 31, a life-guard at Taba Beach for eight years, cleared out his shack and piled his belongings on the beach.

Oren said he had been married on the beach in Taba and gave his 2-year-old son the Hebrew name of Yam for the sea which laps its shores. He said his whole life was tied up in Taba but that he hoped his leaving "will be good for peace."

NAAA: Cuts in foreign aid not in U.S. interest

WASHINGTON (USIA) — George R. Moses, president of the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA), testifying before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East March 13, said Jordan is an "indispensable element in the Middle East peace process" whose urgent military and economic needs have been neglected by the United States in recent years.

"The NAAA strongly supports the increased aid levels the administration has proposed for Jordan," Moses asserted.

The administration has proposed \$35 million in Economic Support Funds (ESF) assistance for the fiscal year 1990, almost twice as much as its FY 1989 request, and \$48 million in foreign military assistance (FMS), up from \$10 million granted in fiscal year (FY) 1989.

The NAAA also spoke in support of the administration's proposed funding levels for Egypt, Oman and the Yemen Arab Republic. But Moses emphasised that the \$2.55-million budget for Lebanon is "woefully inadequate."

He urged the subcommittee to support an increase in aid to Lebanon of "not less than \$25 million." Noting that appropriations for United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) do not fall within the purview of the foreign aid programme, Moses re-

minded the panel that "the United States has not paid its full assessment for UNIFIL since 1985, and was \$82.5 million in arrears at the end of 1988."

Noting that the Bush administration is today confronted with "an unprecedented opportunity for peace in the Middle East," Moses also urged the committee and the administration to "pursue vigorously a substantive dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)" leading to a comprehensive peace in the region.

Citing the disparity between the \$3-billion allocation in ESF and FMS aid for Israel, Moses said the \$12 million for the West Bank and Gaza, a \$3-million reduction from the FY '89 budget, "is insufficient to maintain the quality of aid in the region particularly in light of the severe economic strains being felt as a result of the Israeli crackdown."

He also called for "comprehensive and impartial congressional hearings" in light of ongoing human rights violations documented by Amnesty International throughout the region. He further urged the Congress "to press Israel publicly not to obstruct private voluntary organisation projects in the West Bank and Gaza."

Likud claims victory in 2nd leg of municipal elections

TEL AVIV (R) — Leaders of Israel's Likud Party said Wednesday it had finally taken control of local government from Labour by winning 11 out of 19 mayoral contests in run-off municipal elections.

But Labour leaders, who conceded defeat in the first round of voting on Feb. 23 when Likud swept six of the 10 largest cities, also claimed victory in Tuesday's elections.

Polling took place for a second time in 27 Jewish and Arab towns where no candidate won an absolute majority in the first round.

"I can say with certainty that... local government is in the hands of Likud with no need for any

excessive coalitions with Labour or other factors," said parliamentarian David Magen, who headed Likud's campaign in the municipal poll.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir had said a vote for his nationalistic Likud Party would send a message to the world that Israel would not talk to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Labour focused on local issues.

Likud won the elections in the northern resort of Nahariya and the affluent Tel Aviv suburb of Ra'anana for the first time in Israel's 40-year history but Labour captured Beit Shemesh, a working-class development town which was long a Likud bastion.

Labour leader Shimon Peres was shouted down and hit by tomatoes while campaigning in Beit Shemesh in 1981 general elections, Labour officials described their victory there as a revolution.

Labour Secretary-General Michy Harish said his party fought Likud in only 10 mayoral contests Tuesday and won eight of them.

"The truth is our goal was to top the process that marked the first round in which we suffered a moral reverse. We managed to stop this process to a large extent and we feel great satisfaction," he said.

Labour also won control of Rehovot, Kiryat Ekron, Hatzor, Haglit and Kiryat Malachi from Likud. Likud took control of Hadera and won seats in Safed and Dimona among other towns.

The first-round results dealt a severe blow to Labour's ageing political machine, which had retained a strong grip on local government after losing national dominance to Likud.

"Likud can say this morning that the momentum of victory was not only maintained but also increased," Magen said.

He said Likud won 61 mayoral contests to Labour's 31 in the two rounds of municipal elections.

Poll: U.S. Jews angered by Israeli policies

NEW YORK (R) — A majority of U.S. Jews oppose Israeli actions in suppressing the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, according to an American Jewish committee survey.

The survey also found that 47 per cent of American Jews believe the Palestinians have a right to a homeland on the West Bank and Gaza "so long as it does not threaten Israel." Only 23 per cent disagreed while 30 per cent said they were not sure.

The poll, conducted for the committee, a major American Jewish organisation, by an independent polling firm, says that while American Jews are deeply

troubled by Israel's handling of the uprising they still strongly support the Jewish state.

"There are some signs of change but American Jews are still, literally, scared to death of the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation)," said sociologist Steven Cohen, who interviewed 944 American Jews for the survey.

Cohen said that 54 per cent of American Jews thought Israel was acting wrongly in the way it suppressed the 15-month-old uprising while 29 per cent disagreed and 18 per cent said they did not know.

Almost 400 Palestinians and 16 Israelis have died in the uprising, sparking bitter divisions among America's six million Jews who form the world's largest Jewish community and who sent more than \$300 million to Israel last year.

Over 60 per cent of those surveyed said Israel should stop forcibly transferring Palestinians out of the West Bank, a policy that has brought condemnation from U.S. human rights monitors.

Younger American Jews expressed the sharpest disagreements with Israeli policies in the occupied territories. Thirty-eight per cent of those

under 35 years old and 58 per cent older than 65 said Israel would be threatened by a Palestinian nation.

"This testifies to the powerful effect that the Holocaust and the founding of the state of Israel (in 1948) had on the older generation... the younger the Jew, the less likely he is to have been impressed by developments like these," Cohen said.

Despite concern over Israeli policies, 62 per cent of those interviewed said they felt "very close" or "fairly close" to Israel, the same number as in 1986 before the uprising began.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Gulf minesweepers depart

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — The U.S. naval force in the Gulf war preparing Tuesday for its biggest shakeup since the Iraq-Iran cease-fire, with a new commander taking over and three navy minesweepers ending their 18-month duty tours in the waterway. The departure of the minesweepers, which U.S. military sources said was likely within the week, would be the biggest single cutback of American warships since the Iraq-Iran truce ended hostilities in the Gulf almost seven months ago. The withdrawal would leave the United States with 11 warships — including three other minesweepers — in the Gulf, and nine more in a supporting aircraft carrier battle group in the Arabian Sea. In all, the U.S. fleet will have been reduced by seven ships since the Aug. 20 cease-fire. American officials say, however, that the navy intends to keep a permanent force in the Gulf, as it has since 1949. The latest reported cutback, the first involving more than one ship at a time, coincides with the arrival of a new chief for the Joint Task Force Middle East, as the naval contingent is known. Rear Admiral William M. Fogarty, who led the official inquiry into the shooting down of an Iranian jetliner by the navy cruiser USS Vincennes last year, will take command in a ceremony Thursday aboard the navy's Gulf-based flagship, USS La Salle.

S. Yemenis who fled can return

SANAA (R) — More than 30,000 South Yemenis who fled the country in 1986 after bloody clashes between rival factions of the ruling Marxist Party will be allowed to return, North Yemeni political sources said Tuesday. Most of those who fled the fighting settled in North Yemen where deposed President Ali Nasser Mohammad lives in exile. The North Yemeni sources said Mohammad, who was sentenced to death in absentia in December 1987, and six of his aides were the only South Yemenis still banned from returning. More than 30,000 people will be allowed back, they said. In a bid earlier this month for national reconciliation, Aden said it would free 34 prisoners convicted of treason in the 1987 trial of 108 officials, former ministers and officers who served under Mohammad.

Israel reports border infiltration

CAIRO (R) — Israel has asked Egypt to arrest an Egyptian who reportedly entered Israeli territory with two others Wednesday. Egyptian Defence Ministry sources said. The sources said the Israeli request indicated three Egyptians crossed the border illegally at the town of Rafah in the early morning. The incident took place a few hours before Israel formally handed over the Taba beach strip, the last stretch of Egyptian territory occupied since the 1967 Middle East war. The Egyptian sources said the Israelis had advised Cairo the three infiltrators were not armed. The Israeli request, forwarded to Egypt's Defence Ministry, said Israeli security forces arrested two of them. The third apparently crossed back to Egypt. "We are still trying to confirm the incident ourselves," one of the sources said.

U.S. court convicts Younis

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials say the conviction of Lebanese hijacker Fawaz Younis affirms the "long-arm" tactics they used to lure him aboard a yacht in the Mediterranean Sea with promises of sex and drugs. Younis, held in isolation since his arrest in September 1987, was convicted Tuesday in U.S. district court of leading five heavily armed men aboard Royal Jordanian Airlines Flight 402 in Beirut, Lebanon, June 11, 1985. The hijackers, members of Lebanon's Amal militia held the 70 passengers and crew hostage for 30 hours to publicise their demands for aid in their battle against Palestinian refugees. No one was killed in the incident, and Younis testified that he led the hijacking under orders from the militia. Younis, 30, sat impassively as the jury of seven women and five men returned a verdict rejecting his defence. He faces life imprisonment.

PLAZA 1989 TIMES

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
SUNDAY & EVERYDAY Luncheon Buffet at the Coffee Shop  JD.6,500 Adults JD.3,500 Children	Prime Rib Night at the Coffee Shop  Prime Rib Yorkshire Pudding Baked Potato, Vegetables Selection of Sweets JD.6,500 pp	Jumbo Shrimp Night at the Andalusia  Sea Food Cocktail, Shrimps: Grilled, Deep Fried, or Provencal Selection of Sweets JD.10,000 pp	Spanish Paella Night at the Coffee Shop  Sea Food Soup Traditional Paella (Rice, Shrimp, Hamour & Calamari etc...) Selection of Sweets JD.6,500 pp	Steak Night Night at the Coffee Shop  Charcoal Broiled Steak Green Salad Baked or Fried Potatoes Vegetables Selection of Sweets JD.6,500 pp	Indian Buffet Night at the Coffee Shop  Beef, Lamb, Chicken, Shrimp or Vegetables, Naan Bread Selection of Sweets JD.6,500 pp	Sea Food Night at the Andalusia Set Menu Or Ala Carte  Selection of Sweets JD.10,000 pp

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PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Knnan
 15:40 Programme review
 15:45 Children programme
 16:15 Local programme
 17:30 News on Jordan
 18:00 News for the Deaf
 18:20 Local programme
 18:50 "Give me a break"
 19:15 Health programme
 19:40 Programme review
 20:00 News in Arabic
 20:30 Local series
 21:30 Programme review
 21:40 Programme on Islamic art
 22:30 Arabic film
 23:00 News summary in Arabic
 23:10 Film (cont'd)

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 La Baby Sitter
 18:30 A variety programme
 19:00 News in French
 19:15 La Vie En France
 19:30 News in Hebrew
 19:45 Varieties
 20:00 News in Arabic
 20:30 Bob's Comedy Show
 21:10 Thirty Something
 22:00 News in English
 22:20 Feature film "When the Time Comes"

PRAYER TIMES

04:24 Fajr

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

The influence of the cold front will continue and is expected to wane Thursday evening. Therefore it will remain cold, cloudy and rainy. Winds will be westerly fresh becoming gradually northwesterly moderate.

In Agaba, it will be partly cloudy with possible scattered showers. Winds will be southerly fresh becoming northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min. max. temp.

Amman 3 / 10
 Agaba 10 / 20
 Deserts 2 / 12
 Jordan Valley 8 / 16

Yesterday's high temperatures:
 Amman 99 per cent, Agaba 60 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Sulaiman Al Rabouati 776751
 Dr. Saleh Zayed 706777
 Dr. Amin Abdul Jaber 614222
 Dr. Mohammad Al Hourani 698554
 Piro's pharmacy 691912
 Fawcett's pharmacy 778336
 Al Asena pharmacy 637050
 Nurokhi pharmacy 636762
 Al Salam pharmacy 636730
 Yacoub pharmacy 644965

SHMEISANI pharmacy 637460

IRBID:

Dr. Mohammed Zu'bi (—)
 Al Sharra pharmacy (985338)

ZARQA:

Dr. Muleed Damreh (—)
 Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
 Rescue 630341
 Civil Defence Emergency 199
 Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
 Fire Brigade 622099/93
 Blood Bank 775121
 Highway Police 643402
 Traffic Police 654300/91
 Public Security Department 656000 / 685111
 Hotel Complaints 605800
 Price Complaints 661176
 Water and Sewerage 661176
 Complaints 661176
 Amman Municipality 661176
 Complaints 661176
 (directory assistance) 661176
 Overseas Calls 661176
 Central Amman Telephone 661176
 Repairs 623101
 Abdul Telephone Repairs 661101
 Jordan Television 774111
 Radio Jordan 774111
 Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
 Electric Power Company 636381
 RJ Flight Information 08-53200
 Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-52000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
 Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
 Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
 Malhas, J. Amman 636140
 Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
 Shmeisani Hospital 669131
 University Hospital 949645
 Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
 The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
 Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
 Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
 Army, Marka 891611/15
 Queen Alia Hospital 612340/50
 Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
 Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
 Ibn Sina Hospital (09)98732

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
 Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275
 St. Joseph's Hospital (02)247101

AGABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Upper-lower price in fils per kg

Apple 300 / 400
 Banana 350 / 300
 Banana (Mukammal) 300 / 350
 Broad beans 160 / 120
 Cabbage 110 / 80
 Carrots 220 / 160
 Cauliflower 140 / 100
 Cucumbers 400 / 340
 Eggplant 180 / 120
 Garlic 270 / 200
 Grapes 340 / 320
 Lemon 450 / 400
 Lettuce (per one) 120 / 100
 Marrow (single) 250 / 200
 Marrow (large) 400 / 340
 Orange (Shamouti) 240 / 350
 Orange (local) 240 / 300
 Onion (dry) 250 / 200
 Onion (green) 140 / 100
 Pepper (hot) 640 / 600
 Pepper (sweet) 280 / 240
 Potato 320 / 280
 Spinach 80 / 50
 Tomatoes 140 / 100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel: (08)5320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Jeddah (RJ)
 09:10 Agaba (RJ)
 09:10 Damascus (RJ)
 09:30 Cairo (RJ)
 09:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
 09:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
 10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
 10:00 Calcutta (RJ)
 16:15 Larnaca (RJ)
 17:20 Athens (RJ)
 17:20 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
 17:45 London, Geneva (RJ)
 17:45 Agaba (RJ)
 18:10 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
 18:30 Bangkok (RJ)
 19:45 Rome (RJ)
 19:50 Tripoli (RJ)
 00:20 Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:55 Agaba (RJ)
 09:00 Agaba (RJ)
 10:35 Rome (RJ)
 11:00 Tripoli (RJ)
 11:10 Athens (RJ)
 12:00 Frankfurt (RJ)
 12:10 Larnaca (RJ)
 12:15 Paris (RJ)
 12:15 London (RJ)
 19:40 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)
 20:10 Baghdad (RJ)
 20:15 Vienna, Miami (RJ)
 20:15 Jeddah (RJ)
 20:20 Cairo (RJ)
 20:50 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
 21:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
 22:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
 22:00 Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:15 Kuwait (RJ)
 12:15 Baghdad (IA)
 13:35 Muscat, Bahrain (GF)
 13:40 Kuwait (RJ)
 14:30 Dhahran (TK)
 15:00 Riyadh (SV)
 17:00 Bucharest (RO)
 18:05 Cairo (MS)
 18:35 Paris (AF)
 18:55 Amsterdam, Istanbul (KL)
 19:15 Frankfurt (LH)
 20:00 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
 13:10 Tunis (TU)
 13:30 Baghdad (IA)
 14:30 Bahrain (GF)
 15:00 Kuwait (RJ)
 15:30 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
 16:40 Riyadh (SV)
 18:15 Rome (RO)
 18:50 Cairo (MS)
 19:35 Baghdad (AF)
 20:05 Sana'a (LP)

بالتوفيق

Regent opens 2 new factories in Aqaba



HRH Prince Hassan

The Middle East region, has been established by the Jordanian-Kuwaiti Food and Agricultural Company — a joint Jordanian-Kuwaiti venture.

The company's general manager Hani Funeidi said in a statement that Prince Hassan's attendance at the opening ceremony reflects his continued support for the industrial sector in Jordan and his endeavour to help the country attract foreign investment.

Prince Hassan is expected to deliver a speech on the occasion which comes as part of the Kingdom's celebrations of the Arab Renaissance Day, normally celebrated on March 22.

The company's board chairman Sheikh Ibrahim Du'eij will be among the dignitaries attending the inauguration ceremony.

Also on Thursday, Prince Hassan is expected to inaugurate a plant in Aqaba for cleaning and packing rice, established by a local company in Amman in cooperation with an Iraqi firm.

AQABA — A newly-built liquid fertiliser plant at the port city of Aqaba is due to open Thursday at a ceremony under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, in the presence of a number of cabinet ministers and directors of agricultural, industrial and commercial businesses in the Kingdom.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

DEVELOPMENT: Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, the development council for the northern region Saturday holds a meeting at the Jordan University for Science and Technology. Sawt Al Shaab daily says that the conference will discuss recommendations issued in previous meetings. (Petra)

PARLIAMENTARIANS: Jordan is participating in the International Parliamentary Union's 81st session, currently held in the Hungarian capital, Budapest. Head of the Jordanian parliamentary delegation Bahjat Al Talhoumi chaired a meeting for the Arab group, during which he stressed the need for coordinating opinions and adopting a unified stand. Talhoumi also called for unifying Arab efforts and ranks to achieve the long sought Arab unity. (Petra)

WATER, WATER: Water and Irrigation Minister Ahmad Dakqaif Tuesday presided over a meeting for the Water Authority of Jordan's (WAJ) board of directors, during which they discussed WAJ budget, the water situation and the water projects carried out by the authority. Dakqaif called for taking the necessary measures to preserve the groundwater resources and to rationalise its use through imposing a ban on the drilling of ground water wells in the water basins, currently subject to drain. Dakqaif noted articles 18, 19 and 20 of the ground water control regulations drawn up by the ministry. The regulation stipulates that owners of water wells should obtain annual licences for extracting groundwater (Petra)

TRADE: A Jordanian trade and economic delegation plans to visit Finland in the second quarter of 1989. AJ Dstour daily says that the visit is designed to strengthen economic relations and increase mutual cooperation between the two countries. (J.T.)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Egyptian artist 'Adli Rizqallah at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by seven Jordanian artists at the Art Gallery of Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 6 p.m.
- ★ An art exhibition by Riham Ghassib entitled "Jordan in Spring" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "The Ties Between the Middle East" at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "British Books on the Islamic World" at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An art exhibition by Ahmad Ismael displaying paintings on Maqamat Al Hariri and Jordanian landscapes at the Gallery, Hotel Jordan Intercontinental — 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition of posters on the French Revolution at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Al Jalous at Alia Art Gallery — 5:00 p.m.
- ★ An Iraqi children's books and paintings exhibition at Salt Secondary School for Girls.

CONCERT

- ★ A concert by the Jordanian Armed Forces Orchestra at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

FILMS

- ★ A feature film entitled "The African Queen" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.
- ★ An Italian film entitled "Mussolini ultimo atto" at Haya Arts Centre — 7:30 p.m.



Regent patronises anniversary

HIS Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday patronised a celebration at the Prince Hassan Fourth Mechanised Battalion on the occasion of the battalion's 42nd anniversary. Receiving Prince Hassan upon his arrival was the head of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division along with a number of its officers.

Prince Hassan addressed the battalion members and expressed his pride in their role and congratulating them on the occasion of the battalion's anniversary, which the late King Abdullah named the Fourth Battalion. The battalion's commander also spoke on the occasion and thanked Prince Hassan for his patronage of the celebrations.

Watanabe hails ACC

AMMAN (Petra) — Japan's ambassador to Jordan Makoto Watanabe Monday presented a lecture entitled "Japan: The rise and augmentation of economic power of the Pacific Ocean group," at the World Affairs Council.

In his lecture, the ambassador reviewed what he termed as the growing strategic prominence of the countries of the Pacific region, achieved through regional cooperation.

Watanabe hailed the "healthy trend" of both industrialised and developing countries towards creating economic blocks based on balanced economic links.

Watanabe hailed the creation on February 16 of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) as a "regional power" which he said would reflect positively on its four member states — Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen.

He also stressed the increased economic leverage by Jordan on the regional and international arenas.



Taher Kanaan

Arab banks meet in Madrid

MADRID (Petra) — Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan Tuesday evening opened in Madrid a general conference by the Arab Banks Federation. The conference will discuss monetary affairs of concern to the Arab Nation.

The minister who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the meeting outlined the difficulties which the Arab banks are bound to face in the near future and proposed solutions.

The three day conference will review monetary and financial arrangements by major economic groupings around the world especially the European Community

Upgrading roads

AMMAN (J.T.) — Tenders worth JD 1.5 million have been awarded by the Greater Amman Municipality to a number of local firms for asphalted streets in the capital and there are plans to reorganise traffic directions in a number of streets, according to Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh.

Rawabdeh also said that contacts are underway with the Ministry of Finance to help the municipality collect fees and other dues from the public to finance projects.

Rawabdeh was addressing a

municipal council meeting on the eve of Jordan's celebration of the Arab Cities Day Wednesday. In a speech on the eve of the occasion, Rawabdeh reviewed the municipality's general programmes to improve municipal services, and said that the capital now has 270 public parks providing recreational facilities for the residents and 10 public libraries.

In Zarqa a special ceremony was held Wednesday on the occasion and a clean up campaign launched in different districts. Other celebrations were held in Sukhneh and Russeifa.

RSS participates in Cairo meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) took part in a meeting on manpower development and training held in Cairo last week.

Dr. Jamal Budur, RSS vice president, who attended the conference said that the participants reviewed 30 working papers that dealt with administration development from now until the end of the present century.

Various political, socio-economic, educational, scientific and cultural developments and their impact on the Arab World's development were covered in the working papers.

The delegates emphasised the need to provide accurate statistical information and to promote research work in order to back public administration endeavours, according to Budur.

He said they called on Arab countries to intensify their cooperation in developing human resources and to ensure modern technology transfer to help the manpower training process.

The gift was presented to the ministry's secretary general Muthair Al Masri by the British Council representative in Amman Miles Roddis who said that the British Council was willing to provide other collections of books dealing with cultural subjects upon the ministry's request.



Thouqan Hindawi

Hindawi to tour south

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi will make an inspection tour of schools and education departments in the Qasr and Mazar Janoubi in the Maan Governorate and the Aqaba region Saturday.

In his four day tour, the minister will inspect girls and boys schools and open exhibitions, and will pay a visit to the agricultural school of Rabbeh near Karak, and will chair a meeting by education department directors and supervisors at Al Qasr.

Silver jubilee

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Intercontinental Hotel in Amman Wednesday celebrated its silver jubilee with a grand reception hosted by the hotel's General Manager Gabriel Khawaman and an exhibition of photographs depicting different stages of the hotel's development.

The hotel was opened in Amman 25 years ago under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein; and since then it has been instrumental in boosting tourism activities in the Kingdom.

RJ receives 5th Airbus

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline will Thursday receive another A 310-300 Airbus passenger jet under an agreement signed with a private company in Paris in 1987.

An RJ spokesman said Wednesday that the plane will be

the fifth of a total of six planes to arrive under the terms of the 1987 agreement.

He said that the new Airbus generation will replace the ageing Boeing 727 planes owned by RJ, and will be employed on short and medium-range routes like the Arabian Gulf and Western Europe.

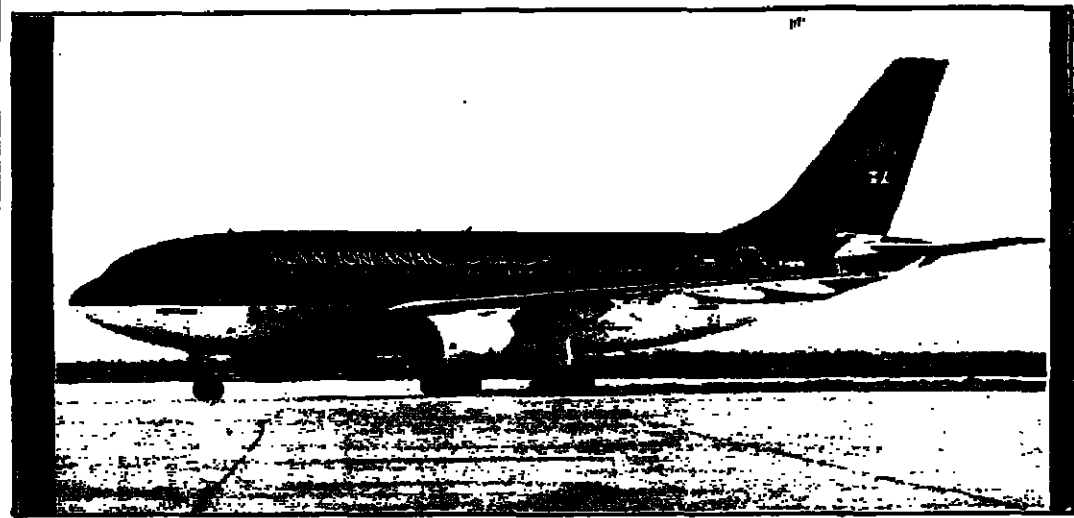
The first Airbus plane was received by RJ in March 1987 exactly two years ago, and the airline organised a ceremony at the

Queen Alia International Airport on that occasion attended by His Majesty King Hussein and other members of the Royal family.

The last of the six Airbus planes is expected to arrive here in 1990, according to (RJ) sources.

The planes are being delivered under a lease agreement guaranteed by 37 European banks.

The wide-bodied twin-engine plane which seats 191 passengers is built jointly by France, Britain, Germany and Spain.



File photo of an earlier Airbus received by RJ

Tarawneh, Khleifat in Damascus

Jordan, Syria discuss supply, youth affairs

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Minister of Supply Faysal Tarawneh and Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat are in Damascus holding talks with Syrian ministers and other officials on means of promoting Jordanian-Syrian cooperation in supply matters and youth affairs.

Tarawneh had a meeting with his Syrian counterpart Hassan Saja and discussed exchanges of foodstuffs between the two countries and the prospect of increasing

the volume of commodities in great demand in the Jordanian markets. After the meeting, both ministers voiced their satisfaction with the talks which were attended by Syrian officials and the Jordanian delegation accompanying Tarawneh.

Tarawneh arrived in Damascus on Tuesday on a four-day visit and during which he will discuss exchanges of surplus food

supplies, and will tour a number of installations.

Khleifat for his part is holding talks on prospects for bilateral cooperation in youth and sports fields. The minister said that he will sign an agreement with his Syrian counterpart to pave the ground for mutual cooperation and will tour sports installations in Damascus and Latakia.

Wahda dam's design cost reduced

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Wednesday approved an amendment to an agreement with an engineering firm involved in preparing designs for the Al Wahda Dam on Yarmouk River near the Syrian border with Jordan. An announcement said that the amendment is designed to reduce the cost of the designs.

The cabinet, meeting under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime

Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi, approved of a project entailing the construction of warehouses to store foodstuffs in Karak, Ajloun, Deir Alla and Mafraq.

The cabinet also endorsed resolutions passed by a government-appointed committee to encourage investments. The resolutions said that a number of newly

set up schemes are to be considered as economic projects to enjoy incentives and exemptions provided by the encouragement of investments law.

The Council of Ministers also decided that Ministry of Industry and Trade's Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf should head Jordan's team to the joint Jordanian-Syrian economic committee meeting due to open in Damascus on March 20.

UNRWA opens new MCH centres

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two new mother and child health sub-centres were opened Wednesday in Baqa'a and Marka (Hitteen) refugee camps. The centres, which were put into operation earlier this month, were built and equipped with a donation of \$270,000 from the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organisations (AGFUND), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) announced.

Apart from these new sub-centres, UNRWA has in each of the two camps a main health centre which provides the camp residents primary health care services including mother and child health care.

The additional sub-centres will reduce the ever increasing pressure on the main centres and will also bring the mother and child health care (MCH) services closer to the residents in the neighbourhood, with subsequent increase of the coverage of these services.

The sub-centres, which took about six months to build, are identical in terms of design and area. Each consists of an MCH hall, a dispensary, a feeding

room, a nurse room, a room for the medical officer, a clerk office, two waiting areas as well as stores and other sanitary facilities built on an area of some 300 square metres.

The opening ceremony was held under the patronage of Dr. Robert Cook, director of health, UNRWA, and was attended by Mr. Ele Saaf, director of UN-

RWA affairs in Jordan and senior agency and local officials as well as by a number of refugee notables.

With the opening of these facilities, UNRWA has now in Jordan 19 health centres and health points catering for the refugees registered with the agency in Jordan.

WORKSHOP: A one-day workshop was held at the Salt Handicrafts Training Centre Wednesday with a view to introducing the centre's trainees and trainees to the potential of tile in architectural ornamentation. The workshop was conducted by tile specialist Farley Tobin who is a month-long visit to Jordan at the invitation of the National Handicrafts Development Project of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation. Tobin, who studied Islamic architecture at the American University of Beirut, is one of the United States' leading specialists in architectural installations. Her work includes the U.S. Courthouse and Federal Building in San Jose, California, and the University City Science Centre in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (J.T.)

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Majali urges more research

The teaching staff of the faculty of medicine at the University of Jordan (left) were urged by University President Abdul Salam Al Majali (right) to give more attention to research programmes to enhance the academic process. Majali who was delivering a lecture

at the faculty of medicine attended by university vice presidents and deans. Majali answered questions put to him on general policies for expansion and post graduates studies at various colleges.

Under the Patronage of Their Royal Highnesses
The Crown Prince and Princess Sarvath

The Young Women's Muslim Association
has the honour to present

Mstislav Rostropovich
The Grand Master of the Cello in concert
at **The Royal Cultural Centre**
on **Saturday 25th March 1989 at 7.30 pm**

For further information and tickets
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between 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

All proceeds to go to the YWMA Centre
for the special education
of handicapped children.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Praying for success

THE ON-GOING meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference in Riyadh could very well turn out to be a test of Islamic solidarity and cohesion. The degree of agreement between the Islamic countries on fundamental issues and challenges confronting the Islamic World would determine the future course of the whole Islamic movement.

There is always fear that the Islamic World would break up at the seams as the Non-Aligned Movement did on more than one occasion unless the quiescence of Islam is allowed to reign supreme over the deliberations of the Organisation of Islamic Conference's foreign ministers. The participants at the Islamic meeting are therefore called upon to be messengers of true Islam and to reflect the spirit of the faith in their resolutions. More fundamental than the Afghan problem or Salman Rushdie's book is whether the cleansing effect of Islam is afforded an opportunity to guide and motivate the deliberations of the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries. With more than sixty items on the agenda of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, encompassing such hard core conflicts as the Arab-Israeli conflict, Iran-Iraq dispute, the situation in Afghanistan and a score of other pressing issues, it would be a bad omen and even a sacrilegious act if the Islamic countries were to differ among themselves on how to go about addressing such issues.

The jurisprudence of Shura in Islam is a cardinal dimension of the faith and when put to proper use, agreement among the Muslim states need not be beyond reach. In its truest manifestation Shura would necessitate bona fide deliberations without preconceived ideas, with the teaching of Islam being the only arbiter in case a divergence of views and thoughts emerges. The Riyadh meeting can thus serve as a forum to show true Islam in action. Acrimonious debates and heated presentations are alien to Islam and must not be allowed to pollute the Islamic gathering. Even on the case of Salman Rushdie and his blasphemous book, The Satanic Verses, the reaction of the Islamic peoples and countries must be consistent with the true response of Islam to such treacheries committed against the Holy Koran. The eyes of the world are focused on the Riyadh conference to gauge how well the Islamic representatives reflect the true teachings and sermons of the Holy Book.

Last but not least, the participants at the Riyadh meeting would be derelict in their duties if they avoided global issues like disarmament, the depletion of the ozone layer and other global environmental issues, such as the green-house effect and matters of concern related to the broad subjects of human rights and humanitarian law. Islam is a global religion with a universal vision and Muslims would be betraying their religion if they detracted from touching upon global issues and subjects that threaten man and his planet Earth. All Muslims pray to God that the OIC meeting in Riyadh would emerge triumphant over all such challenges.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily newspaper on Wednesday discussed the return of Tabat to Egyptian sovereignty and the hoisting of the Egyptian flag over the Sinai enclave due Wednesday following more than 20 years of occupation. The paper said that the return of the land to its legitimate owners following so many years of occupation emphasises the fact that occupied land is bound to return sooner or later as long as the owners continue the struggle to regain this land. Any attempt on the part of the occupying force to prolong its stay in other lands is bound to encounter increasing problems and difficulties and will finally end with a withdrawal no matter how long the occupation lasts, the paper added. It said the Israeli enemy should take lessons from the colonial eras with particular attention to Vietnam and Algeria where the occupation forces were forced to leave despite the long years of their stay. The return of Tabat to Egypt marks an important stage in the long Arab-Israeli conflict, and underlines the meaning of liberation, and bolsters the freedom fighters' determination to pursue the fight to regain the land and liberty, the paper noted. It said that the return of Tabat is a source of joy not only to Egypt but to the whole Arab Nation.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily discusses Israel's inhuman treatment of Christian leaders and refers in particular to obstacles placed in the way of a group of Anglican Church leaders who were on their way to a meeting in Arab Jerusalem. Ibrahim Sakikija says the Israelis wanted by their attitude to show and to prove to the world that they control the destiny of all religions in the occupied territories and that the Christian leaders should succumb to orders coming from Tel Aviv. The writer praises the stand of the Christian leaders who continuously defy occupation rule and confront Tel Aviv's actions. He says that Israel which since its occupation of Palestine has placed so many obstacles in the way of religious freedoms, is now preventing Arab religious men from Lebanon, Syria and Jordan to exercise their right in the holy city. Israel's inhuman treatment to the Palestinian and Arab people in general and the heads of religions in particular, the writer calls for world-wide condemnation.

Al Dustour daily on Wednesday said that foreign minister Marwan Al Qasem delivered Jordan's address at the Islamic foreign ministers' meeting in Riyadh, focussing the light on the Kingdom's Arab, Islamic and foreign policies which, he said, are designed to serve the common causes of the Arab and Islamic nations. The paper said that Jordan, which has been struggling to help the Palestinian people regain their land and right, has also been active in helping to end the Afghanistan problem, to settle the Lebanese crisis and to enable the Iraqi and Iranian Muslim neighbours reach a lasting and peaceful settlement. The paper referred to King Hussein's continued endeavours to back Islamic countries efforts at all levels and with all available means, and said that the monarch left no moment without acting in a manner that would benefit the Arab and Islamic worlds. The paper said that Qasem's speech shed light on the Kingdom's endeavours to serve the Palestinian people and to back the PLO's struggle to fulfil the aspirations of the oppressed people of Palestine.

First major Mideast peace conference in U.S. concludes

By Judy Ajta

NEW YORK — The first joint meeting between Palestinians, Israelis, Jewish Americans and Arab Americans — entitled "The Road to Peace" — was held at Columbia University here March 10 to 13. It was organised by Israelis and Palestinians in the United States.

At a press conference at the end session, Peter Weiss, a New York lawyer and member of the "Road to Peace" organising committee, said that "never before have delegations representing such a breadth of Israeli and Palestinian societies come together with the express purpose of bringing our two people closer to the goal of peace."

The three days brought out "a fruitful exchange of views and emotion" and pointed out "large areas of agreement and significant areas of disagreement," Weiss said.

The organisers issued a statement of principles outlining the basis for peace in the Middle East and emphasising that the success of the conference "points to the need to take urgent advantage of the opportunity which now exists to move toward a permanent and just peace."

The conferees concluded that a settlement should be based on mutual recognition of equal national rights to self-determination and peaceful coexistence, and that all peoples of the region are entitled to live in their own states within secure and recognised borders free from threats and violence, according to the organisers.

The conference also said that all differences should be resolved through negotiations between the PLO for the Palestinians and the government of Israel for Israelis under the auspices of an international peace conference.

To advance the peace process, they said, a moratorium on all acts of terrorism should be declared and Israeli authorities should "refrain from establishing new facts (settlements) ... with the intention of making a negotiated settlement impossible or more difficult."

The meeting was organised by Friends of Peace Now; the American Council for Palestine Affairs; "Al Fajr," the Jerusalem Palestinian daily; and "New Outlook," an Israeli monthly magazine. The two delegations were made up of six members of the

Palestine National Council on the Palestinian side and four current members of the Knesset and four former Knesset members on the Israeli side. Also participating were Rita Hauser, a lawyer who is also U.S. chair of the International Centre for Peace in the Middle East and a member of the advisory panel on International Law of the U.S. Department of State, and Rabbi Arthur Herzberg. More than 400 people attended.

Panel discussions covered: mutual concerns and mutual needs, American Jews and Palestinians in America; the international community and the

peace process; viability of Palestinian statehood and regional development; press coverage of the region; a future vision; and taking action after the conference.

Nubar Hovsepian, director of the American Council for Palestine Affairs, said that while conferences of this type have been held in other major cities around the world, it is "important to bring a conference of this nature to New York. It is important to communicate ideas between the Israeli side and the Palestinian side, the Jewish public, the American public and official Washington." The conference, he said, "achieved the desired

opening in that direction in order to create the necessary debate legitimising the need for establishment of two states."

Shulamit Aloni, a member of the Knesset and chairperson of the Citizens Rights Movement, said that the conference showed that Palestinians and Israelis can "talk, respect each other and understand that peace can come only between two states."

Aloni said, she hoped that out of this conference the two sides could "go further opening a new era, respecting each other. This is the message we want to bring to our people and especially to the administration of the United

States who affects so much." Nabil Sha'ath, a member of the PNC and chairman of its political committee, called the conference "by far the best, most frank, most direct and useful" of the sessions.

"We do not belittle conferences like this, we think it is very important," Sha'ath said. "What really the whole issue is all about is the question of the state of mind. A whole language has to be reformed and communication channels have to be opened... How can we go to the negotiating table unless we create a language that we use peacefully? We are coming here because we want to expand the area of communica-

tion between Palestinians and Israeli American and because we feel that communication will bring all of us to talk about substantive issues, about the peace itself, and then about the needed interim arrangement to create peace."

The conference sends a message to the Bush administration that "we are further advanced in the process than many here think or tend to think. We already agreed on so much substance that the need to go into confidence-building measures seem to be way behind the times," he said. "We are creating the confidence" — U.S. Information Agency.

U.S. technology borrows from Israel's

A bond stronger than peace differences

By Paul Taylor
Reuter

TEL AVIV — Military cooperation between the United States and Israel is now so pervasive that disputes over Middle East peace efforts are unlikely to weaken their links, Israeli and U.S. experts say.

Government officials say they do not fear repercussions if, as expected, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir takes no new peace plan to Washington next month and remains adamant in his refusal to

Centre for Strategic Studies.

But the military partnership has since grown so close that Washington would be "shooting itself in the foot" if it tried to limit cooperation to pressure Israel into concessions, he said.

"The link between the peace process and strategic cooperation calls for continuing cooperation rather than reducing it as some kind of punishment or threat," Gold said.

Israel stockpiles pre-positioned weapons and ammunition for the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force and provides airstrips, port facilities, repairs and hospital treatment for U.S. forces.

When U.S. fighters shot down two Libyan planes over the Mediterranean in January, their aircraft carrier set out from the Israeli port of Haifa and returned there after the clash.

Israel's strategic importance has grown in the 1980's as U.S. access to other potential allies in the Middle East and the Mediterranean has shrunk, said Yoram Ettinger, director of the government press office and a former Israeli consul-general in Houston.

Officials contrast Israel's willing cooperation with the varying degrees of reluctance exhibited by Greece, Spain, Italy, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain in hosting U.S. armed forces.

Israel is probably the only U.S. ally with no anti-American movement.

"Israel has a way of making itself useful when other allies are

being difficult or downright impossible," a U.S. diplomat said.

Gold said superpower rivalry was increasing in the eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East despite the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, the end of the Iran-Iraq war and the current mood of East-West détente.

The analysts do not see Washington's new dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as threatening strategic cooperation with Israel.

They said U.S. suspicions of some Arab governments like Libya were furthering the relationship. Washington has accused Libya of "backing terrorism and building a chemical arms plant."

Israel, which receives \$3 billion a year in U.S. aid, is also increasingly a supplier of military technology to the United States as well as a major importer of American arms.

U.S. fighters fly farther and have more frequent sortie rates because of Israeli inventions, said Gerald Steinberg of Bar Ilan University, an expert on arms cooperation.

Israel is often first to use new U.S. jets and weapons systems in combat, supplying the United States with vital data about their performance and developing low-cost improvements.

It developed 16 such add-ons for the F-15 fighter, including

special fuel tanks to lengthen the range and cheap repair kits for the most common engine faults, increasing readiness.

Past attempts to restrict arms sales to Israel as punishment for its 1981 bombing of Iraq's nuclear reactor and its 1982 invasion of Lebanon have backfired, Steinberg noted.

In 1982 Washington embargoed sales of cluster bombs after Israel used them against civilians in Lebanon.

The Israelis developed their own cluster bombs and the United States lifted the embargo last year because its industry was clamouring for a share of the Israeli technology, he said.



Bhopal: Settlement or sell-out?

By Darryl D'Monte

BHOPAL, India — Everyone in India was caught unawares by the suddenness of the Supreme Court settlement giving \$470 million to Bhopal victims. Although the court refers to an "order," critics maintain that it has merely put its seal on what has been an out-of-court settlement between the Union Carbide Corporation and the Indian government — whose initial claim was for \$3 billion.

The release of poisonous gases from a storage tank of the Carbide pesticide plant in the city of Bhopal in December 1984 left 3,403 people dead and at least 60,000 injured.

In December 1987, Bhopal district court judge M.W. Deo — in whose court the civil suit filed by the government against Carbide was being heard — ordered the company to pay Rs350 crores (\$230 million) as interim relief, an amount reduced to Rs250 crores (\$160 million) on Union Carbide's appeal last year.

As reaction now builds up to the \$470 million settlement, it is mostly adverse: critics argue that the compensation — barely twice the interim relief ordered — hardly does justice to the victims of the world's worst industrial tragedy.

The final settlement, it is pointed out, does not differ very much from what Carbide offered a couple of years ago: \$300 million down and an equivalent sum payable over 20 years — which the Indian government rejected. It also compares poorly with the \$2.5 billion paid by the Manville Corporation in the U.S. to 60,000 people exposed to asbestos fibre.

Lawyers in particular ask why the larger issue at stake in the trial — attaching liability to the parent company for its subsidiary in a Third World country — has been jettisoned without any explanation.

When the case was transferred from the U.S. to an Indian court in 1986, the Indian government argued that this could help set an important precedent. Significantly, former Chief Justice P.N. Bhagwati had, in a 1986 case involving a leak from a Delhi chemical company, ruled out its corporate liability was absolute.

As Upendra Baxi, Director of the Indian Law Institute in Delhi points out, "a negotiated settlement can be just on the basis of finding a principle. It was open to the court to decide the liability issue either way. The further

question of what damages Carbide had to pay was thereafter one eminently open to settlement between the parties."

In Bhopal itself, Vinod Raina, of the Group for Information and Action, stresses that what is even more disturbing is the complete lack of correlation between the award of \$470 million and the extent of the suffering of victims.

He notes that, on the basis of research done on methyl isocyanate — the poison gas which did the damage — what is absolutely clear is that there are many effects on the human body which have long-term implications.

"On what basis then has the court arrived at this figure?" he asks.

There is particular concern about methods used to compensate for psychological damage, including lack of will to undertake the hard manual work which most

people living in the shanty towns around the plant were engaged in.

Angry activist groups in Bhopal have described the settlement as a "sell-out" which will not even "last five to seven years with the beneficiaries," and which bears absolutely no relation to Carbide's ability to pay.

Last year, the Union Carbide Corporation earned a profit of \$730 million and has paid its lawyers \$100 million in fees over the past four years. The fact that the settlement will cost each Carbide shareholder only 50 U.S. cents speaks for itself.

Among the few voices in favour of the settlement is that of Nani Palkhivala, a noted constitutional lawyer and former Indian Ambassador to the U.S. "It's a very sensible decision and in the interests of India," he says. "I am glad that the Supreme Court has

put an end to the litigation and awarded an amount that is more than a hundred times any award of damages ever given by a court in India."

Chief Minister Motilal Vora of Madhya Pradesh, of which Bhopal is the capital, believes that the settlement has reaffirmed the state government's resolve to provide full-scale relief to the affected.

Apart from the amount of compensation, many people have also been angered by the Supreme Court's decision to allow Union Carbide to deduct the \$5 million it paid in medical fees to the local Red Cross.

The "ambulance chasers" — U.S. lawyers who filed cases on behalf of individual claimants — are also seeking to recover their costs from the settlement. There is also uncertainty over whether the Madhya Pradesh government

will claim the Rs100 crores (\$6 million) it has so far spent on relief.

As concern spreads, opposition political parties and civil rights groups have called on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to withdraw from the settlement. In Parliament, the entire opposition walked out after the Speaker refused to allow adjournment on the issue.

In a later debate, opposition MPs condemned the settlement as a "grand betrayal."

Victims from Bhopal joined with civil rights activists in a protest march to Parliament. Meetings and demonstrations are planned for different parts of the country.

Meanwhile, the slum dwellers around the now dormant pesticide factory are wondering exactly what they will receive after these long months of waiting.

Critics charge that the govern-

ment has failed the people, not only over the amount of compensation, but also in examining the question of liability in order to establish a precedent. As Upendra Baxi asserts, the sudden settlement may well turn out to be the second catastrophe in Bhopal — Panos features.

P.S. The Institute of Pathology in New Delhi, and the Defence Research and Development Establishment, reports Aisha Ram, have recently confirmed suspicions that the leaked gas contained hydrogen cyanide — a suggestion that Union Carbide has tried hard to refute. Research has revealed that methyl isocyanate — the leaked gas — can form hydrogen cyanide when heated to temperatures above 200 degrees Celsius. Hydrogen cyanide, when inhaled, can have serious long-term effects on the body.

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EN BREF

Intifada: lourde addition pour Tel-Aviv

L'intifada a déjà coûté près de 700 millions de dollars à l'économie israélienne, a estimé samedi le ministre israélien des télécommunications, Gad Yaacobi (travailliste). M. Yaacobi a souligné que la poursuite du soulèvement palestinien dans les territoires occupés de Cisjordanie et Gaza s'était traduite également par une nette diminution des recettes du tourisme, et par une baisse des investissements étrangers en Israël. Enfin, le ministre a ajouté que le ministère de la défense a dû consacrer une importante part de son budget pour faire face à l'intifada, alors que les réserves de l'armée ont, de leur côté, été réduites sous les drapeaux pour des périodes prolongées allant jusqu'à 62 jours par an.

Des prêtres refoulés au pont

Une délégation de prêtres libanais, syriens et jordaniens a été contrainte lundi à rebrousser chemin sur le pont King Hussein, alors qu'elle se rendait à un rassemblement de cette congrégation à Jérusalem. Selon le représentant à Amman de l'Eglise anglicane, les douaniers israéliens ont tenté de soumettre certains prêtres à un «traitement inhumain», décidant le groupe à retourner à Amman. La réunion à Jérusalem a de ce fait été annulée. Selon un organisateur, les délégations anglicanes, présentes auparavant au pont sans difficulté. Le responsable anglican d'Amman a envoyé une note de protestation au Secrétaire général des Nations-Unies, Javier Perez de Cuellar, ainsi qu'au Vatican pour s'élever contre l'obstruction israélienne aux activités religieuses en Terre sainte (d'après l'AFP).

La CEE approuve la politique économique jordannienne

Le représentant à Amman de la Communauté économique européenne, Christian Falkowski, s'est félicité vendredi des récentes mesures économiques du gouvernement d'Amman. M. Falkowski a rappelé que la CEE allouait 42 millions de dollars d'aide et 78 millions sous forme de prêt à la Jordanie, en application d'un protocole de 1987. Il a souligné que l'aide européenne à la Jordanie allait d'abord aux activités productives telles que l'agriculture (40%), l'industrie (22%), l'énergie (20%) ainsi qu'à l'éducation (11%).

Dettes jordannienne: réajustement à l'étude

La Jordanie va demander à la fin du mois au Fonds monétaire international (FMI) et à la Banque mondiale un réajustement de la dette extérieure du Royaume, a annoncé jeudi dernier le Haut comité du plan, présidé par le Prince Hassan. Des représentants des deux institutions précitées doivent se rendre en Jordanie à la fin mars. Le Haut comité a par ailleurs annoncé la poursuite des politiques financières et monétaires du gouvernement, et des mesures propres à honorer les dettes du Royaume envers diverses organisations internationales.

Arafat «prêt à aller à Jérusalem»

Le président de l'OLP Yasser Arafat s'est déclaré dimanche prêt à se rendre à Jérusalem afin de convaincre les Israéliens d'accepter une conférence internationale de paix. Je suis prêt à m'inter en ce sens. Anwar El Sadate. Mais je ne suis pas Sadate. Contrairement à lui, j'irais à Jérusalem avec le soutien des pays arabes. Si il y avait été dans ce cadre, avec des positions de principe fermes, l'Etat palestinien existerait depuis longtemps, a dit M. Arafat. Le ministre israélien de la défense, Yitzhak Rabin, a rejeté mardi cette proposition, soulignant de «fossés» séparant le leader de l'OLP et les habitants des territoires occupés. Yitzhak Shamir avait déclaré auparavant que M. Arafat serait jeté en prison s'il venait à Jérusalem. A propos des attaques de commandos palestiniens au Sud-Liban, le leader palestinien a déclaré que «ces activités peuvent être suspendues à trois conditions: fin des raids aériens israéliens au Liban, arrêt des déportations de Palestiniens des territoires occupés, arrêt de l'utilisation d'armes dans la répression».

Vous écrivez?

Le Jourdain recherche des collaborateurs en français, avec des idées originales d'enquêtes et de reportages. Anglais acceptés. Contacter François Ducroux au Jourdain Times, 667171.

18ème réunion à Ryad

OCI: le spectre de Rushdie

L'Organisation de la Conférence islamique (OCI), qui regroupe 46 pays, a entamé lundi sa 18ème réunion ministérielle à Ryad. Les débats prendront fin aujourd'hui. Ils ont été marqués par un refus des pays membres de suivre la ligne dure de l'Iran sur l'affaire Rushdie.

L'Arabie Saoudite a fait savoir mardi qu'elle s'attendait, de la part des ministres des Affaires étrangères réunis à Ryad, à une réaction modérée à la proposition de résolution présentée par l'Iran sur l'affaire des «Versets sataniques». Téhéran appelle à une dénonciation des pays occidentaux et à une condamnation à mort de Salman Rushdie. Le ministre saoudien des Affaires étrangères a cependant précisé que le livre de Rushdie avait indigné les musulmans dans le monde, qui y voient une insulte à leur religion.

«Nous essayons de traiter ce problème d'une manière qui serve les intérêts de ces communautés, qui nous protègent de toute calomnie future contre l'Islam. Nous demandons aussi la coopération des autres Etats pour éviter toute mesure qui enflammerait les esprits», a-t-il déclaré. Selon plusieurs délégués cités par Reuters, la plupart des membres de l'OCI devraient suivre cette ligne modérée. «Nous sommes aussi intéressés à créer des relais de connaissance mutuelle. Il existe une diversité de cultures et de croyances dans le monde, dont la coexistence requiert une bonne connaissance d'autrui et le respect de ses croyances», a ajouté le ministre saoudien.

Autre sujet à l'ordre du jour, l'Afghanistan: le représentant des moudjahiddines, Gulbuddin

Les affrontements les plus sanglants depuis deux ans

Beyrouth sous les bombes

Le cauchemar recommence: au moins 43 personnes ont été tuées mardi par des tirs d'artillerie des deux côtés de la «ligne verte» séparant les secteurs chrétien et musulman de Beyrouth. Ces combats constituent la première confrontation armée entre les gouvernements rivaux de Selim Hoss et Michel Aoun, mis en place en septembre dernier.

«Pour la première fois dans la guerre civile, personne n'est capable de négocier un cessez-le-feu durable. Nous sommes revenus en 1975», a déclaré un responsable pro-syrien au lendemain du «mardi noir» qui a mis Beyrouth à feu et à sang. Les mitrailleurs crépitaient encore mercredi dans la capitale libanaise transformée en ville fantôme.

25 pays pour une autorité mondiale de l'environnement

La Haye: SOS planète terre

Vingt-quatre pays des cinq continents, dont la Jordanie, ont lancé samedi après-midi à La Haye un appel à la communauté mondiale en vue d'instituer une autorité internationale en matière d'environnement.

Dans une «déclaration de La Haye», les 24, représentés presque tous par leur chef d'Etat ou de gouvernement, ont expliqué que les problèmes écologiques tels que le réchauffement de la terre menaçant la survie de tous les pays, ne pouvaient être réglés à l'échelle nationale et exigeaient un abandon de souveraineté en faveur d'une structure dotée de pouvoirs politiques et juridiques étendus.

Le texte préconise «le développement, dans le cadre des Nations Unies, d'une nouvelle autorité institutionnelle» qui «définira des normes favorisant ou

Municipales: Le Pen en baisse

Le Front national de Jean-Marie Le Pen (extrême-droite) a essuyé un sérieux revers au premier tour des élections municipales françaises: 7% des voix, alors qu'il avait totalisé 9,6% des voix au premier tour des législatives et 14,4% au premier tour des présidentielles l'an dernier. Autre surprise, le score des écologistes, qui totalisent une moyenne nationale de 4%, avec une pointe à 7% en Alsace, à la frontière allemande. Pour le reste, on observe une légère progression de la gauche, qui gagne 1% par rapport aux municipales de 1983. Le taux d'abstention, proche des 30%, est le plus élevé depuis 1945. Selon les analystes, le parti socialiste au pouvoir enregistrerait un net succès s'il parvient à emporter sur la droite une vingtaine de villes au second tour, dimanche prochain.

SORTIR L'autre route du Sud



Un ruban d'asphalte lisse, des dunes de sable piquetées d'arbustes désolés, des chameaux oubliés là qui hantent cette immensité ocre. Sur la route du Wadi Araba (Aqaba-Kerak par la vallée), on songe aux Clochards Célestes de Jack Kerouac, aux panoramiques de Wim Wenders. Le silence. Pour qui ne goûte pas aux acrobaties de l'autoroute du désert, un havre de paix. Finis les détours sans crier gare, les salons entre les très fucieux poids-lourds irakiens, les sauts périlleux sur nids de poules. La route du Wadi Araba n'est ouverte au public que depuis quelques mois. Peu le savent. Hormis les dromadaires, nous n'y avons rencontré qu'une dizaine de véhicules en deux heures. Certes, dans le sens Nord-Sud à partir de la Mer Morte, il faut jouer du volant dans les virages en épirole à cheville grimant vers Kerak. Mais on roule vite dans la vallée. Oubliés, les signaux et les rétrogradages. Et la route, neuve, est excellente. Aqaba-Amman en quatre heures environ, soit le même temps que par l'autoroute. Avec en plus le plaisir des yeux et le repos de l'âme.

Sud-Nord: sortir d'Aqaba en prenant la route de l'aéroport. Simple contrôle de police. Nord-Sud: sur autorisation, délivrée en 10 mn à Kerak. A déguster au soleil couchant de préférence, avec Wagner sur le radio-cassette.

FIGURE Révolution en solo

Un one man show révolutionnaire: seul sur scène, Eric Eychemme fait revivre la Révolution française, dans son spectacle «Vivre libre ou mourir». Créé à l'occasion du bicentenaire de 1789 sa performance est plus qu'un spectacle à un seul personnage: c'est une véritable pièce de théâtre, dont Eychemme interprète tous les rôles.

Le pari était audacieux, le résultat est un succès. De la convocation des Etats Généraux aux exécutions de Robespierre et Saint-Just, il transporte le spectateur de Versailles à Paris, de la Cour à la rue, de l'Assemblée à la guillotine. Avec pour tout décor une chaise.

A L'AFFICHE

- CINEMA**
Les mariés de l'an II
De Jean-Paul Rappeneau, avec Jean-Paul Belmondo et Marlène Jobert (1971): comédie. Révolution française. En pays chouan. Philibert navigue entre les deux camps de la guerre civile et de son cœur. Choisira-t-il la fougueuse aristocrate ou la pétillante sans-culotte? A moins que la guillotine ne tranche... CCF, lundi 20 à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).
- Chouans**
De Philippe Broca, avec Philippe Noiret et Sophie Marceau (1988): la lutte entre un jeune noble royaliste et un révolutionnaire, tous deux amoureux de la fille d'un comte. CCF, mercredi 22 à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).
- The African queen**
De John Huston, avec Humphrey Bogart et Katherine Hepburn: aventures. Un homme et une femme diamétralement opposés se découvrent à l'occasion d'un coup de main militaire périlleux en jungle africaine. Centre américain, jeudi 16 et dimanche 19 à 19h00 (en anglais).
- En italien**
«Mossolini ultimo atto», dramatique, avec Rod Steiger et Franco Nero (jeudi 16). «Un rinoceronte al 2 piano», fantastique avec Erik Persson (samedi 18). Hays Arts Centre, 19h30.
- Ciné-club**
Séances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 20h30. Le 16: Space Hunter, Ray (jeudi 16). A cat on a hot thin roof, River, Cuba.
- THEATRE**
Vivre libre ou mourir
Par Eric Eychemme, dimanche 19 au Centre culturel royal (voir article ci-dessus).
- EXPOSITION**
1789
La Révolution française: déclaration des droits de l'homme et du citoyen, prise de la Bastille, terreur... Les temps forts et les grands principes retracés en 32 affiches. CCF, jusqu'au 23.
- TELEVISION**
«Tous vedettes», de Michel Lang, avec Leslie Caron: comédie musicale. Les aventures d'une troupe de danseurs et chanteurs. Leur spectacle «Paris-Paris», revisité par un producteur, devient «Galaxie-Galaxie» et fait un bide. (JTV, vendredi 17 à 17h30).

Reportage: 600.000 personnes face à l'occupation israélienne

La bande de Gaza sous haute tension

Alors que l'intifada est entrée dans son 16ème mois, aucune solution n'est en vue à court terme. Les responsables du soulèvement ont félicité mardi les pacifistes israéliens, tout en appelant à la poursuite de la résistance. Gaza a été le théâtre la semaine dernière d'une grève générale et d'affrontements meurtriers. Mais chaque jour ordinaire y est marqué par la tension et les brimades.



«Ici, il y a un mort tous les jours»

«Donne-moi des allumettes!», demande un gamin d'une dizaine d'années au taxi qui vient d'entrer dans Gaza. «Demain peut-être», lui répond le chauffeur, goguenard. Le gosse voulait-il allumer une cigarette? «Mais non, s'esclaffe le taxi, il voulait allumer un pneu!» Et les passagers de rire aux éclats devant une telle naïveté. Ca détend.

Car il y a vraiment peu de quoi rire. Gaza s'annonce par une chicane israélienne, sur la route venant de Tel Aviv. Des camps militaires, puis une grande rue jonchée de débris. De part et d'autre, des ateliers de garagistes ou de ferrailleurs. Des hommes assis, immobiles. Au fond d'une ruelle, un pneu achève de brûler. «Voilà, c'est ici».

Les enfants jouent dans la rue terrassée avec des boîtes de conserve rouillées. Ils sont sales. Sans doute les auteurs des graffitis dont sont recouverts les murs, effacés puis rebombés, inlassablement. «Israéliens dehors», «Palestine vaincra», etc. «Chaque fois, explique le chauffeur, le graffitieur assortit son slogan de la date où il l'a écrit. Pour montrer aux soldats qu'ils peuvent tenir longtemps». L'armée d'occupation semble du reste avoir renoncé à les faire effacer, devant l'ampleur de la tâche.

«Welcome to Gaza». Dans ce décor de fin du monde, la formule inscrite sur un grand portique laisse perplexe. Nous entrons dans la ville de Gaza proprement dite, reconstruite dans les années 1920 par les Anglais, après les bombardements de 1917. «Fi djesh, fi djesh» (soldats), dit le chauffeur en désignant les toits. Ils sont là-haut, scrutant la rue à la jumelle, mitrailleurs Uzi au poing. Pour simplifier les poursuites dans les ruelles, l'armée en a muré des sorties avec de hautes barrières faites de barils métalliques, joints au ciment.

Intolérable statu quo

Le Congrès juif américain (CJA) a rendu publique une étude consacrée aux six options les plus fréquemment envisagées pour l'avenir des territoires occupés. Le document, intitulé «La Cisjordanie et Gaza: les options de paix d'Israël», avait été commandé au centre d'études stratégiques Jaffee de Tel Aviv par le CJA ainsi que par la ligue antiraciste de R'ith, autre importante organisation juive américaine.

Rejetant d'emblée le statu quo, qualifié «d'intolérable», les auteurs du rapport estiment peu réalisable la formation d'une fédération jordanopalestinienne, tout autant que la mise en place d'une autonomie limitée dans les territoires occupés, comme le propose le Likoud. A moins, notent les chercheurs, qu'elle ne mène, à terme à la création d'un Etat palestinien.

chauffée par le soleil. La décharge publique, c'est la rue. Si on peut appeler rues ces allées de terre et de sable, parfois embréchées des débris d'habitations détruites par l'armée. Partout, des enfants en haillons, le regard trop lucide pour leur âge.

Les Israéliens viennent de se retirer de Shati et les «shebabs» ont investi leur observatoire, une des rares maisons à plusieurs étages du camp. Dans un fracas épouvantable, ils défendent tout ce qui s'y trouve. Perchés en grappes sur le toit, des adolescents cagoules de leur keffieh brandissent le drapeau palestinien. En bas, les mères, partant, se tordent les doigts, silencieuses. Et à l'autre bout de la

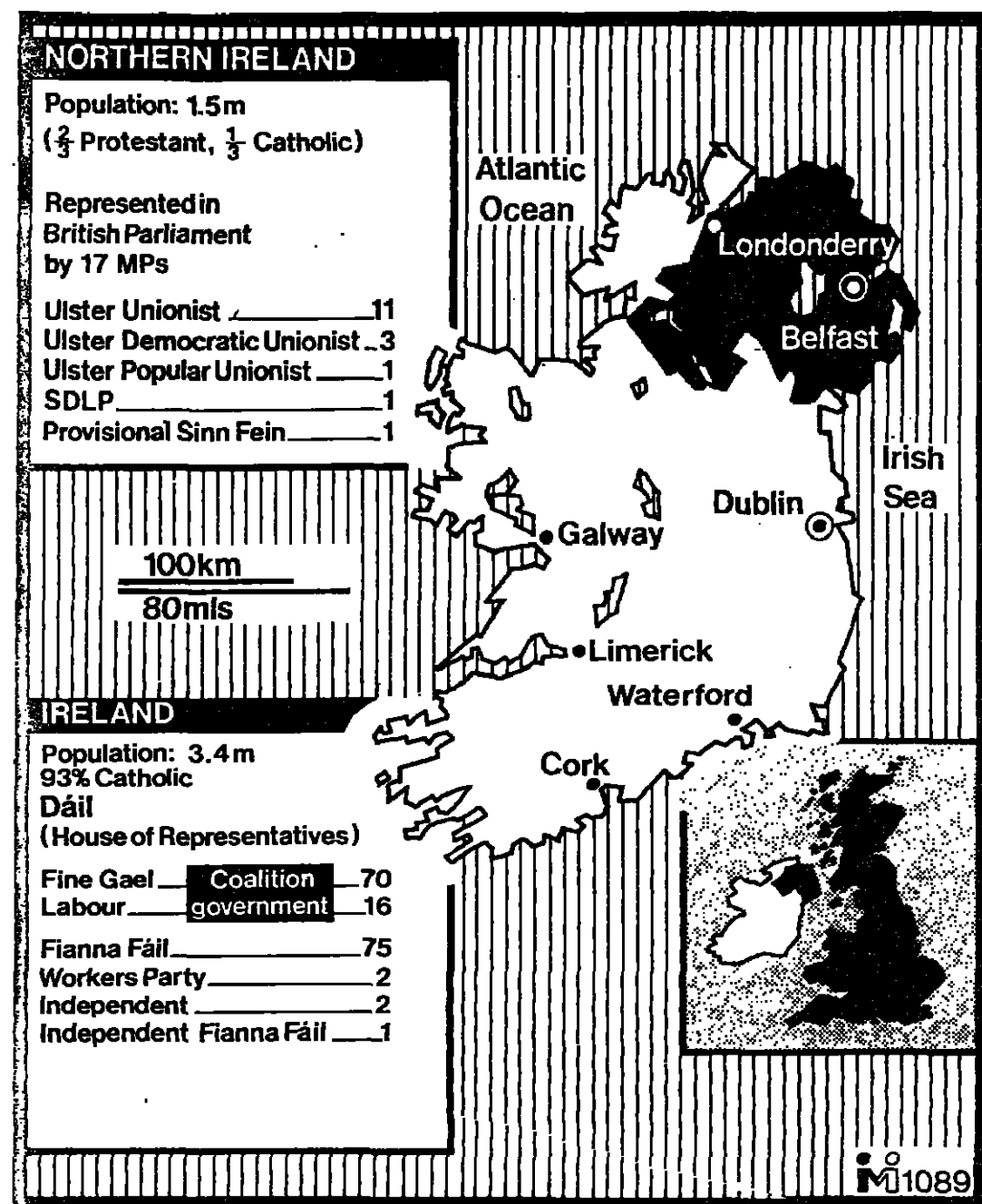
Coupures de courant

Sur la place centrale de Gaza, une ruche de taxis, de vendeurs à la sauvette, de femmes enveloppées dans leurs grands foulards blancs. Pas de grève aujourd'hui mais on se dépêche. Il est 11h00 et dans une heure, tous les rideaux des commerçants seront baissés jusqu'à demain. «Avant l'intifada, ils restaient ouverts toute la journée», se souvient le père Djilil Awad, curé de la petite paroisse de Gaza. Son école catholique compte 600 élèves musulmans pour 100 chrétiens. «On se serre les coudes», dit le père Awad. «A chaque fois qu'une mère perd son fils, les autres l'entourent et l'aident financièrement. Ceux dont les maisons ont été dynamitées trouvent immédiatement refuge chez celui qui a de la place».

Dans l'école du père Awad, les appels à la grève décident des jours de congé. Soit deux jours par semaine en moyenne. Mais les interruptions de travail sont fréquentes en temps ordinaire. «Dès qu'il y a des manifestations, les Israéliens coupent l'électricité. Parfois, ils jouent avec nos nerfs en coupant cinq minutes, puis en rallumant, et ainsi de suite. Le vrai courant alternatif», plaisante un Palestinien.

Changement de décor: Gaza côté jardin. Fils d'une grande famille de propriétaires terriens, Fouad Abu Muddin, 35 ans, vit avec les siens dans une villa cosue au milieu des orangers. Palmiers, verdure et la mer qui scintille au loin. On boit le thé à l'ombre de la véranda. Pour un peu, on oublierait le camp de réfugiés, à quelques centaines de mètres de là. Mais l'occupation israélienne n'épargne personne. «Depuis l'intifada, ils nous empêchent de transporter nous-mêmes nos fruits au port israélien

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Ireland and the Legend of St. Patrick

DUBLIN — Every year on March 17, the people of Ireland and all Irish ethnic groups throughout the world, celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland is credited for introducing Christianity in Ireland. At the age of 16 he was captured by Irish raiders and sold into bondage. After six years, he escaped and returned home to Ireland. He relates how in a vision he saw a man who came from Ireland with letters, and how he heard the voices of the Irish imploring him to return. St. Patrick's mission in Ireland spanned some thirty years in the latter half of the 5th century AD. It was very successful. Tradition says that he died on the 17th March in 490 AD, the day now celebrated as a National Festival by all Irish people throughout the world.

The island of Ireland is situated in the extreme North-West of the continent of Europe. Its total area is 84,421 square kilometres of which the Republic comprises 70,282 square kilometres and 14,139 square kilometres Northern Ireland with a total coastline of 3172

kilometres. The population of Ireland, according to the 1986 census, was 3,537,195 of which a high proportion is concentrated in the younger age (approximately 50% are under 25 years of age).

Irish-Jordanian relations

Ireland has long standing and friendly ties with Jordan. Ireland's contacts with Jordan have increased considerably during the past few years. Through membership of the European Community and activity at the United Nations, Ireland has played its part in the efforts to assist in finding solutions to the Middle East problem. Ireland believes that a just and lasting solution of this conflict must include the rights of all states in the area and the implementation of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination with the option of setting up an independent Palestinian state.

Irish exports are best known in Jordan for consumers items and foodstuffs. Irish Kerrygold butter, ghee, milk; meats; clothing; veterinary products; pharmaceutical products manufac-

tured in Ireland, are well-established. An increasing number of high technology and data processing software have totally been introduced with a steady flow of exports recorded during the last couple of years.

Cultural and Educational relations between Ireland and Jordan were developed to their utmost during 1988. A number of Jordanian Civil Servants and High School instructors from the Jordan Ministry of Education have attended courses in different fields of vocational training. These courses were funded by the Irish government and EEC. These projects provided a model for Industrial/Vocational training for Jordan. During 1988, 39 Jordanian instructors were trained by HEDCO. HEDCO was also awarded a major project worth one million ECU to assist Bethlehem University. Financial support for the project comes principally from the EEC, with co-financing from the Irish government. The project aims at strengthening Bethlehem University as an institution of higher learning in the service of the Palestinian community. It will be linked with University College in Dublin. The programme aims at promoting the academic development and social importance of the smaller universities in their local context.

A glimpse of Gibran and Egypt

The conflicts of life are portrayed strongly in a double bill of Middle Eastern drama in London.

By Mary Patrick

LONDON — The theatre of the Middle East is going through such an experimental phase that the more one sees of it the better perspective one's likely to get. London was the venue recently of a double bill from the Arab world as part of the Black Theatre Season '89.

What awaits us when life ends and we pass into the realm known as "Death"? The question was contemplated with poetic magnificence by Kahlil Gibran, the late Lebanese writer, poet and philosopher, in a little-known play, *Lazarus and his Beloved*, which was presented recently at London's Shaw Theatre along with *Song of Death* by Tewfik Al Hakim, the renowned Egyptian playwright.

"Lazarus is an entirely new venture," said Renu Setna, the Pakistan-born director of the double production, in an interview. "It has not been performed before." The play's relative lack of fame is not due to its quality: it was discovered accidentally in an attic by a nephew of Kahlil Gibran.

Gibran Kahlil Gibran was born in a Maronite family in Bisharri, a small town in northern Lebanon, in 1883. When he was 12, the family migrated to the United States and settled in Boston, Massachusetts. After a three-year stay in the United States, Gibran returned to Lebanon to study in Beirut. He travelled widely in Syria and Lebanon; the result showed in his later work. In the early part of this century he spent three years at the Fine Arts Academy in Paris and worked as a sculptor with Auguste Rodin. He returned to the United States, where he died in 1931.

Gibran's early experiences as an immigrant and foreigner in the United States and Europe fuelled his creative talent and were responsible for the compelling visual and literary imagery that made him famous.

The London event's second play *Song of Death*, was an early work by one of Egypt's most prolific sons. Al Hakim has been writing since the 1920s and *Song of Death* is one of his strongest creations — with its underlying theme of conflict between ignorant tradition and enlightenment.

Setna decided to stage the two one-act plays as a double bill because, he explained, he regarded them both as "accessible." He said, "I don't like theatre which goes above people's heads."

Biblical story

The writings of Kahlil Gibran are dear to his heart, having put on Gibran's *The Prophet* as a one-man show in 1987. "Gibran writes in very poetic language, he uses beautiful images, and I've worked very hard to ensure that they aren't remote."

Lazarus and His Beloved is based on the biblical story of the man Jesus raised from the dead, but takes off on a mystical tangent to present the Lebanese lyricist's favourite theme of the anguish of human existence and the constant search for fulfilment.

The resurrected Lazarus is an unhappy man who has trouble explaining to his family that the return to earth has been a devastating experience. His inability to communicate with his family leaves him in rage. It is a poignant dilemma that finds expression in Setna's rendition of Gibran's strong imagery and lyricism. Anthony Lennon (of the televi-

sion series *The Bill* and *Grange Hill* is effective as Lazarus and Shakespearean actress Carole Vieira is convincing as his sister Mary.

Song of Death centres on a different dilemma, one which pits everyone steeped rightly or wrongly in tradition against others seeking change, enlightenment or wider horizons.

The mother, Asakir (Indian star Alaknanda Samarth) wants her son, Alwan (Rezau Kabir) to avenge the death of her husband, which occurred 17 years ago. She has kept the saddlebag in which his dismembered body was returned, together with the murder weapon.

When Alwan returns to his village, having gained an education not only in academic subjects but also in a different way of life, Asakir demands that he kill the man who killed his father. Alwan's response, "Why should I kill this man?" shocks and dismays her, for he not only questions her authority, but also the tradition on which her desire for revenge is founded. She implores him to "rise up and quench my fire" in order to restore the "family name to honour."

But Alwan has other thoughts;

he desires to build "a model village." In contrast to his mother's desire for killing, he says, "I come only to open people's eyes to life." He remains unmoved by her entreaties, and tries to reason with her: "When will people in the countryside live like human beings?" and "What is more important than decent dwellings, clear running water and electricity?"

Finally, as she continues to persuade him, he proclaims, "Mother — I won't kill." Disappointed and spurned, she is consumed with the desire for vengeance which she directs to her son.

"Traditional rules are strong they are built and perpetuated especially where people live in harsh conditions," explained Rezau Kabir in an interview. He said Tewfik Al Hakim wanted to convey that "town rules don't work in village life."

One-act plays are more intense, more gutsy than long productions, covering a who range of feelings which in two-three-act plays may leave the audience untouched. They are also designed, in the present view, to "change people's lives — Academic File.



Alaknanda Samarth in Tewfik Al Hakim's *Song of Death*, performed at the Shaw Theatre in London.



A scene from *Lazarus and His Beloved*. From left: Billy Braham, Anthony Lennon, Carol Vieira and Misli Alan.

'We can hook the whole world up'

WASHINGTON — Ted Turner says the "biggest thing" he's done in his venture into global television is that "we have shown that we can hook the whole world up and get important stories, even though we may be very U.S. biased."

During a March 8 satellite interview with audiences in East Asia, Turner said, "When General Secretary Gorbachev makes (a) speech or when something major happens in Japan or Great Britain, we do carry it, usually simultaneously. It allows our correspondents and our affiliates and those that we have reciprocal agreements with around the world to join in on a very timely basis without going to the great expense of ordering up satellite time and so forth."

Turner, who is chairman of the board and president of the Turner Broadcasting System (TBS) in Atlanta, Georgia, was speaking over the U.S. Information Agency's Worldnet interview programme with journalists in

Tokyo, Peking, Hong Kong and Jakarta.

"So, as a news exchange," Turner said of his global TV hookup, "I think it has been important."

As for charges of U.S. bias in his reporting, he told questioners, "We do originate in the United States and we do have a U.S. bias. That cannot be helped."

But Turner said, "The point is well made. In time, we would like to have a truly international edition that tried to move away from such a great U.S. bias that we have now."

In response to a question about what new directions he foresees for TBS in the next decade in a global sense, Turner said, "We are going to be the first network to hook up the world on a 24-hour basis."

"We just began 24-hour hour service via Panamsat to all of South America. We are in the final stages of concluding an agreement with the Soviet satellite system to rent a transponder that will cover Africa and India and the parts of the Middle East that

we do not cover."

"We anticipate that that service will commence in September. When that does, there will not be a single spot on this globe that you cannot pick up Cable News Network (CNN) via satellite. That we are very excited about."

Turner also revealed that his company is working on a "children's series called 'Captain Planet', featuring a group of little children that go around the planet helping restore the environment and protecting endangered species and stopping revolutions and wars, a little animated children's series."

"We are hoping to distribute that all over the world," he said, "so that we can educate children about the dangers of continuing to destroy the environment and a number of other projects, the Goodwill Games and a lot of new programming that we are producing over here in the United States that we intend to make available to broadcasters around the world."

As for whether he has any plans for further acquisitions to buy himself into the megaleagues as he attempted to do last year with CBS, he said, "Not a major one. We have a heavy debt load now. Really, we do not — I do not feel like we really need to acquire any megadeals. I think we can grow internally very rapidly."

"We have four networks here in the United States now, one that is virtually covering the entire globe and our worldwide syndication operation. We are producing a lot of new programming. I am very happy with the position that we are in now."

Turner was told that one of the criticisms about American news gathering in Japan has been that reporters who cover from the United States, who are mostly Americans, do not speak Japanese and quite often, do not understand the Japanese society. His response, in part, was: "We are just pretty well convinced that Americans are used to seeing American announcers or Amer-

ican correspondents report back because that is the way it always been."

I bet you that on TV Asahi your correspondents Japanese, too, aren't they?"

"But we are going to try move in that direction. It is dream of mine. I do not want let all my people from the East and the bureau — they all watching this too — we are going to let them go."

"In time, we are going to and staff with more local nationals. That is the direction we are heading."

"I think one of the great things about this planet is that we have lot of religions. We have a lot of cultures. We have different tastes in food, different dress and different cultures and so forth."

"I think that is all good. I think I respect every man's and every person's right to believe in whatever they want to believe. I won't be personally involved insulting or offending anyone else, certainly not deliberately."

Scientists cite key advance against muscle disease

By Jim Fuller
USIA Science Writer

WASHINGTON — Researchers have found a way to correct a muscle defect in mice that could represent a major step toward finding a treatment for a debilitating human disease.

U.S. and British scientists report that mice that could not make a protein called dystrophin in their muscles began to produce it after injections of immature muscle cells. The development comes only one year after researchers reported the discovery of the protein, whose absence triggers the onset of Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) in humans.

The genetic disorder, which currently has no cure, is one of the most common and devastating of the muscular dystrophies, appearing in about one in every 3,500 male births in the United States. It causes a progressive weakening

and wasting of the voluntary muscles. Most patients die in their early 20s.

Therapeutics

"We basically have the first step toward a potential to do therapeutics," said geneticist Louis Kunkel, who led one of the mouse research studies at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Boston, Massachusetts. In addition to the research at Howard Hughes Medical, mouse studies were also performed at the Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School in London and Montreal Neurological Institute.

Donald Wood, director of research for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, said the latest research represents "the most exciting approach for human therapy that, in my opinion, has ever come along."

He said preliminary experiments in a limited number of Duchenne patients may begin later this year. Those studies, focusing on single muscles and a few muscles, could lead to larger human studies. Wood said it is too early to say when the injection procedure could be made widely available, if it proves useful.

Defective genes


The identification of the muscular dystrophy protein by a research team led by Kunkel last year followed the discovery five months earlier of the gene that causes the inherited disease. The protein's absence in muscular dystrophy is the result of a defective

gene. Although the exact function the missing protein has not been determined, recent studies suggest that it normally helps port muscle cell walls. The search, which involved examining extremely thin slices of muscle tissue under an electron microscope, found that dystrophin appeared just inside the flimsy fatty membrane that makes up cell walls. It appeared to be part of the cytoskeleton, a mesh of proteins that maintains the structure of the cell.

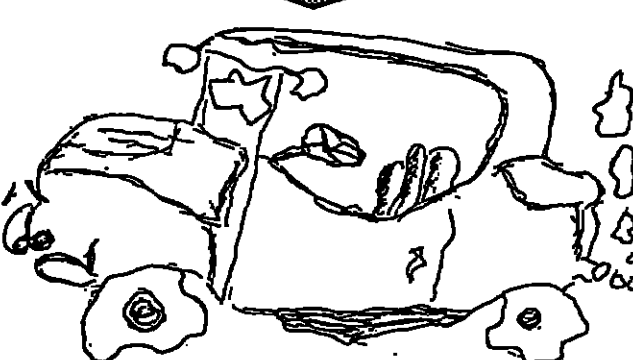
Researchers reported that dystrophin is part of the cytoskeletal support, muscle cells lack dystrophin may be unusually susceptible to being torn and destroyed as the muscle works.

Earlier work had indicated that dystrophin might play an important role in the processing calcium needed to make normal muscles contract. According to Eric Hoffman, a researcher at Children's Hospital in Boston, setting the calcium balance to activate an enzyme that dissolves muscle fibres. And in the body attempt to repair this damaged human skeletal muscle is subject to fibrosis, a "hardening" process that impairs muscle function.

Research reported by scientists earlier this year found that dystrophin is also produced by brain cells in a different form, a discovery that may help explain why some people with muscular dystrophy also suffer mental impairment. The mental impairment appears in mild to moderate form in about a third to a half of Duchenne patients.

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لبنان في لبنان

Focus on people

Second to none

By Marjane M. Shahin

This week John and Ruth Roper speak to Focus on people about the bond that they have built over the last thirty years with their adopted homeland — Jordan.

The Ropers' relationship with the Middle East began while they were still at medical school in Philadelphia. After seeing slides of the Holy Lands in the early 1950s they were particularly struck by the sight of the refugees and their living conditions. Ruth Roper remembers: "We met with our church group and asked them to direct us to where medical personnel was needed most."

After coordinating their move to the Middle East with the Southern Baptist Church, the Ropers moved to Beirut in 1954 to learn Arabic. During their stay in Lebanon Mrs. Roper gave birth to two of her four children. In 1955 the Ropers went to work at the Baptist Hospital in Gaza. "At the time the waiting list for surgery in Gaza extended from three to six months, we had definitely come to a place where we were needed."

After a two year stay in Gaza, the Ropers transferred to Northern Jordan. The hospital where John and Ruth were to spend the next thirty years was and is still called the Ajloun Hospital. Ruth recalls: "When we arrived, there were twenty beds, no electricity, except for a couple of hours a day and no paved roads at all." The conditions people were living in were harsh, John practiced surgery and although Ruth was trained as a general practitioner, her work in gynaecology took up much of her time.

"Everything was so scarce back then. There was a very high mortality rate amongst children, nourishment was not what it should be and medicines were novelty items. There were not more than 70 doctors in all of Jordan, compared to the almost 700 Jordanian doctors that are unemployed today. A lot of the doctors and pharmacists used to make their own concoctions of medicines because there was no local pharmaceutical industry and imported medicines were not available as they are today."

Ruth Roper remembers that "caesarean section was unheard of at the time, and if a woman living in Northern Jordan wanted to deliver by caesarean section she had to come to us."

John Roper recalls, "there was a lot of malnutrition, because sources of protein were very limited. Of course many foodstuffs from other parts of the country could not be stored properly because of the lack of appliances, which could not be used anyway because of the lack of electricity. The good thing was that there was always plenty of fruits, people ate a lot of fruits."

Despite the difficult living conditions at the time John Roper admired "the remarkable way people coped with the situation. They were so innovative. During the summer people would prepare foodstuffs for most of the winter. I believe the hardships they faced strengthened their ideals. They worked hard to give their children a better future."

The evolving role that women have played in the development of Jordan has also been inspirational to the Ropers. "We feel that now, more than ever before, Jordanian families 'have placed great emphasis and value on the education of their daughters.'"

The Ropers attribute a lot of the positive changes in the northern region to the facilities made available by the military in the area. "In the post 1967 era, the government in Jordan made more strenuous efforts to develop the north of Jordan. The results were very evident, especially in the health 'education.' As education for boys and girls spread so did the development in all sectors of life in Ajloun and other parts of Northern Jordan. Today the area boasts five times as many professionals as it did in the 1960s. 'We are particularly pleased that the people of this area have been successful wherever they have gone. Furthermore they have all come back to their towns and villages to build beautiful homes and invest in the improvement of the areas' facilities," John Roper says.

Although the Ropers returned to their home in Seneca, South Carolina, almost a dozen times during their thirty year stay in Jordan, they never considered leaving their adopted home. "It was on our first trip back to the U.S. after we had been in Jordan almost five years, that the ladies of Ajloun presented me with the red abash, which is their traditional headress. This is the gift presented to a bride of the Ajloun area when she leaves her parents home, so that wherever she goes people will identify her with her village. It was their way of telling me that I had become one of them. I was very touched," Mrs. Roper recalls.

The Ropers feel that they are privileged to have had the opportunity to live in Jordan. They have developed a strong affinity with the people and customs of the Ajloun area. Their children, two of whom were born in Ajloun, are all the richer for having had the opportunity to grow up with such helpful and generous people. "Asked if they ever regretted their decision to live in Jordan, Ruth Roper answered, 'when you have a purpose, you never regret.'"

The Ropers feel that "Jordan is now very well equipped with an educated people-power, there is no longer any need for foreigners to come and offer their know-how, its all here. We feel that many Jordanians are not sufficiently aware that they have very advanced facilities in this country. For some reason it seems that a lot of Jordanians don't have enough confidence in their own professionals. As far as the medical field is considered, including dentistry, we feel the expertise could not be better anywhere."

All four of the Roper children speak Arabic having finished their primary schooling in Jordan, before going on to Beirut and the U.S. for their higher education. One of them reads and writes Arabic and takes courses in Arabic at his university in the U.S., hoping to come back and live in the Arab World some day. "We feel that our children have benefitted from the Arabic culture immensely. They are able to see that every coin has two sides, which is something most young Americans just don't see. Mainly because they have not been sufficiently exposed. When compared with their age group back in the United States, our children are much more knowledgeable and worldly. Something we feel most young Jordanians are too."

After having travelled as a family through all of the Arab World, Europe and the Soviet Union, the Ropers felt that Jordan was "second to none." When we came back to Jordan all our kids said 'we feel free again! We have never locked the door to our home here. We have never felt it was necessary. We have always felt so very welcome and so safe.'

In March 1987 the Ajloun Hospital became a government hospital and the Ropers went into official retirement. They plan to return to Seneca, South Carolina in June of this year. Ruth Roper "wants to spend time with my grandchildren" and John plans to go back to university to update his medical studies, specialising in emergency work. Both intend "to be of service to the community of Arab students in South Carolina and offer the hospitality to them that Jordan offered to us."

"Jordan has been the greatest inspiration to us as individuals and as a family, we hope that the people of Jordan will not underestimate their own capabilities and continue to build their country as they have."

P.S. Dr. John Roper was awarded the Istiklal Medal by His Majesty King Hussein in March 1987, in recognition of his services to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171-6

'Never say never in politics'

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — IN a biting interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) television newscaster, Peter Snow, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir called the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials "criminals," "liars," and "enemies of our people," and vowed "never to negotiate with the PLO."

"We will not talk to (Yasser) Arafat or his PLO gang," said Shamir in a video tape of the interview, aired last week on the BBC show Nightline, and shown at the British embassy Wednesday.

According to Shamir Israel's refusal to speak to the PLO is because he considers the PLO "a terrorist organisation whose declared goal is the destruction of a people and because Arafat is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Israelis."

Snow referred to the British Foreign Minister, William Waldegrave's remark on Shamir's past and involvement in a terrorist gang and pointed out, "your goal was to establish a state and therefore, you killed Palestinians." Shamir brushed off the statement saying that the two situations "can not be compared," claiming that they never fought for the destruction of a state "like the PLO."

Similarly, Shamir referred to the "different situations" when Snow asserted that Israel made peace with Egypt, "which was responsible for far more Israelis' deaths."

"It was a military war (between Egypt and Israel)... they (the PLO) will never deliver peace because they can not believe in peace," said Shamir.

Even when Snow alluded to Arafat's calls for peace in Geneva late last year, Shamir said, "it is a lie. These people can do any-

thing. They use totalitarian (methods) and can even use lies." Shamir added that the continued violence indicates "the PLO can not be partners in peace," and pleaded with Snow to accept this fact.

He told Snow, "you must respect our decision. We will not accept a Palestinian state," asserting that the Palestinian state will not only be a "threat to Israel," but will be used by "all elements not accepting Israel as a base of aggression."

Pushing Shamir further, Snow asked whether the Israeli premier would accept the inhabitants of the occupied territories choice in support of the PLO as their sole representative. Shamir said that the "elections" were under consideration, but since the "PLO would not accept them then they would be boycotted."

Asked about a Knesset member, Ezer Weizman, and former foreign minister and Knesset

member Abba Eban, who do call for negotiations with the PLO, Shamir said "we are a democracy and allow for all sides to voice their opinions," and on Eban, he added, "thank God he does not say (his opinion) in the Knesset."

As to what solution Shamir has, he only said, "maybe the Palestinians will propose Arab sovereignty and Israel will propose Israeli sovereignty. I think of solutions, but these are not solutions I would like to see... not Arab sovereignty," on what Shamir vehemently rejected as occupied territories.

"These are not occupied territories, you can say liberated controversial territories or as French President Francois Mitterrand says disputed territories," he said.

Cause of peace

Shamir also said that he refuses to accept an international conference, saying that such a confer-

ence would not serve "the cause of peace." He stressed that he supports direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries, "but we will not negotiate with the PLO. We think our reasons are reasonable and no one will be able to change our opinion. We will not speak to them."

Following the interview with Shamir, the BBC correspondent in Israel spoke with Waldegrave, who was in Israel at the time of the interview, on the comments made by Shamir.

According to Waldegrave Shamir's hardline stand and refusal to negotiate with the PLO has been taken in line with what Shamir sees as best for his country.

Calling Shamir a "patriotic man," Waldegrave nonetheless stresses that the Israelis are "painting themselves into a corner," making it more difficult for the peace process to continue. He

suggests Israel should listen "to its friends who care," and not to rule out options "which it (Israel) may have to take (in the future)."

"Never say never in politics," said Waldegrave, adding that Israel needs a "diffusion of arms" which is draining its economy. This factor may encourage Israel to change its present position, he said.

Waldegrave referred to the "historical shift" taken by the PLO, "not in the (direction) of the destruction of a state," he said, "this is what is worth (testing)."

On whether the West Bank and Gaza are "occupied" or "liberated" territories, Waldegrave cites his experience during a curfew in Nablus. "There was no one in the streets. There was a cat who made it to the other side... no its not liberated territories." When the reporter clarified "occupied," he said "yes, occupied."

Waging decent war — for earth's sake

In 1899 the Hague Conventions affirmed the principle that "the right of belligerents to adopt means of injuring the enemy is not unlimited." In 1977 additions to the Geneva Conventions extended this principle in the words: "It is prohibited to employ methods or means of warfare which are intended, or may be expected, to cause widespread, long-term and severe damage to the natural environment." But to what extent can the war mongers be expected to adhere to those rules?

By Maggie James

LONDON — The two most immediate threats to mankind on a global scale are military devastation and environmental exhaustion. Each of these threats is reinforced by the other. This is the theme of a new book published by the Oxford University Press in association with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

The book is the fifth and final one in a series examining the impact of military activities on the human environment. It resulted from a research programme jointly financed by SIPRI and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Entitled *Cultural Norms, War and the Environment*, the study is edited by Professor Arthur H. Westing, an authority on the environmental implications of military activities who worked previously with SIPRI and currently is associated with the International Peace Research Institute in Oslo, Norway.

The objective of the study ostensibly is to examine the influ-

ence of cultural norms, past and present, on the conduct of war and the way those norms help towards protection of the environment from warfare. The study also aims to suggest how such norms can be strengthened and developed. Nine academics who are experts in different fields examine cultural norms vis a vis war and the environment from various perspectives — from law, education, the news media to the arts.

Between the end of World War II and today global population has doubled to about 5,000 million. Despite scientific and technological advances, more people by far than ever before in history are undernourished; more by far than ever before inadequately housed; and more by far than ever before without access to clean water, says Professor Westing.

"The three major renewable natural resources — forests, grasslands and fisheries — are, on a world-wide basis, now being utilised faster than their rate of natural replenishment. This dis-

astrous process of overexploitation continues relentlessly," he says.

For several decades now, human demands have outstripped even the global availability of many resources. In yet another self-defeating action, says Westing, use of the atmosphere for the disposal of ever increasing amounts of municipal and industrial waste products (air pollutants) is also occurring at a rate faster than decomposition and dissipation can accommodate such discharges.

Then there is the military threat to the environment. "It is not only clear that warfare is destructive of resources, but it is additionally demonstrable that in this century becoming an ever more prominent aspect of warfare," states Westing, citing the adverse effect of nuclear weapons testing on the human environment. He is among scientists who are convinced that a nuclear war might be so ecologically disruptive as to actually threaten human civilisation as a whole.

But Westing reassures: "The establishment of a pervasive cultural norm against nuclear weapons and war should not be as difficult as it may at first appear, because the immensely anti-social and anti-ecological nature of nuclear weapons is already widely perceived among both the peoples and governments of the world."

He indicates how in the inter-governmental arena, 133 or more non-nuclear weapons governments (81 per cent of them), including a considerable number that could readily produce nuclear weapons, have to date formally renounced such weapons through joining the 1968 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and in other ways. And 113 nations have declared as a guiding principle that the human environment must be spared the effects of nuclear weapons.

Writing on the historical evolution of cultural norms as they relate to war and the environment, Dr. Geoffrey Best, an authority on military and legal history at the London School of Economics, points out that the world history of the principles of restraint in war, and of the rules derived from them, brings a mixed message to our age.

"The record of observance is patchy, and is held by many sound judges to be worse in this century than in the last, if only because the means available for the conduct of total war have suddenly become so much more powerful than ever before."

However, he says, it would be a mistake to conclude pessimistically that norms for the conduct of war are useless. "Every prisoner who returns home more or less intact from wartime captivity is living proof that they are not useless. Hiroshima was obliterated, but Kyoto was not. Slaughter of civilians is not something of which belligerent parties like to be accused. The laws and customs of war have worked from time to time and from place to place, as they still do."

How has the media helped shape those cultural norms? Professor David M. Rubin of New York University observes: "Although journalists do not make military policy in either the USA or the USSR, they do frame these issues for their respective audiences."

"Since the two societies have little direct interaction, what is known about 'the enemy' comes almost exclusively from the media, whether directly or via governmental officials speaking through the media."

"What journalists choose to report, and how they report it," he says, "is as much a component of the arms race as a new missile or warhead."

Grigori S. Khozin, a Soviet expert on the politics of the environment, admits that the present process of more openness

and restructuring in the USSR cannot but affect the central problems of nature utilisation.

In his view the current change towards openness in the USSR has been a direct outcome of activist moves by Soviet scientists, cultural workers and representatives of the public at large.

Although Soviet outlook on the ecological question is being determined largely by ethical and other cultural considerations, he says, those considerations are also attracting new adherents among government decision-makers at all levels.

It is left to Professor Westing to have the last word. "The military norm that 'the right of belligerents to adopt means of injuring the enemy is not unlimited' is, in fact, slowly expanding to encompass 'means of warfare which are intended, or may be expected, to cause widespread, long-term and severe damage to the natural environment.'"

Such an expansion, he notes, implies a growing realisation that the human life-support systems have become seriously imperilled. "This emerging concern for the environment represents the first small, but exceedingly welcome, step by humankind in its 'journey of a thousand miles' in the direction of ecological and social sanity." — Academic File.

Fashions: for better or for worse

By Edith M. Lederer
The Associated Press

LONDON — Britain lived up to its reputation as a fashion capital for individualists in autumn collections that offered everything from fringes, fake fur and animal prints to classic wools and perennial velvets.

The result was "anything goes," with no single direction for British fashion.

Skirts were long or short. Pants were narrow or very full. Jackets were long and lean or short and swingy. The looks were ethnic, or cowboy, or biker, or Russian, or prim Miss Marple-English.

"I think anything goes this season," said David Sassoon of Bellville Sassoon, who designs evening dresses for Princess Diana. "But I think people have found it difficult to buy. I think they've found too many kooky clothes and not enough that people will wear."

Marie Gavrielides of the U.S.-based Kellouie's, which sells to private clients, said the British shows generally were "too high fashion" for the United States.

"Paris is more classic," she said. "Americans are way too classic for most of these collections. Everything moves so much faster in England. Designs are very up, very progressive."

The greatest excitement seemed to be generated at the young end of the fashion scene, with the accessory and clothing firm Pink Soda setting the trend for the 15-25 generation.

Their collection — inspired by India, Morocco and Turkey — featured lots of embroidery, animal prints, fringed scarves, corset-like bustiers with lures, coins, bells and pompons, plenty of ethnic necklaces, all topped

with fake fur or patterned velvet bowler hats.

"We've had a lot of interest from the States — more than in the last five years," said Managing Director David Solomon.

Helen Storey's beaded chiffon bra-tops, fringed zebra bolero and one-piece leather chaps with attached boots were also big hits in the young market.

Some top British designers also took the bizarre route during London fashion week.

Katharine Hamnett's biker-look collection, harking back to the 1970s, including a skin-tight black velvet jumpsuit worn with high-cut black leather briefs and a leather bomber jacket with metal studs bearing her latest ecology slogan — "clean up or die."

Rifat Ozbek, winner of the British fashion council's Designer of the Year Award, returned to his Turkish roots with belly-dancer bras fringed with gold coins, leopard-print pants and Berber-striped coats.

At the other end of the fashion spectrum for autumn and winter were the more traditional designers who have become part of Britain's fashion establishment.

Jean Muir showed loose jumpsuits. Gina Fratini had black velvet strapless ones moulded to the body and covered with Indian mirrored-cloth jackets. Caroline Charles reflected Miss Marple with long, lean earth-coloured tweeds, trimmed in fake-fur. Ally Capellino also did a prim English look with skirts down to the ankle.

Edina Ronay, who showed animal prints, velvet suits with gold beading, and coloured venetian silks, said "the Americans are coming back" after several seasons in the wings.

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Saudi Arabia seeks new outlets

European spot oil prices soar

LONDON (R) — Oil prices surged to 15-month highs Wednesday in Europe after reports that Saudi Arabia, the world's largest exporter, planned further supply cuts.

The prices on the European free or "spot" market, a barometer of supply and demand, were also helped higher by news of lower U.S. oil stocks.

The API's (American Petroleum Institute stock figures) just boosted an already strong market," one European trader said, referring to the U.S. data issued Tuesday.

Brent blend crude from Britain's North Sea, the most widely traded internationally, leapt to around \$17.60 a barrel for May delivery, its highest since December, 1987.

Brent prices fell to two-year lows of \$11 last October before the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed to implement output curbs from the start of this year.

Prices have been supported by these cuts and a promise of reciprocal cuts from exporting nations outside the group.

Already higher crude prices have been reflected in pump prices on garage forecourts. Retailers say petrol prices are likely to rise further with the approach of the Easter "driving season" when European and North

American motorists traditionally begin to use their cars more as spring sets in.

On Monday, news that Norway's Ekofisk oil field complex had closed temporarily following a small fire sparked off the rally. The field resumed production Wednesday, its operator said.

Saudi Arabia told Japanese buyers Tuesday it would slash their crude supplies by 30 per cent in April reflecting OPEC's determination to rein in output to 18.5 million barrels daily for the first half of this year, traders said.

Industry sources in Tokyo said Wednesday that Saudi Arabia also planned to restrict supplies to the United States and Europe. They declined to detail the extent of the cuts.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham, Nazer Tuesday said he hoped for a more stable market.

"We hope market conditions improve and that depends on two things. OPEC states abiding by last November's accords and contribution by non-OPEC producers, and so far things are going well," he told reporters in Bahrain.

Technical factors and low U.S.

heating oil stocks have also been boosting prices. One U.S. analyst said Tuesday that U.S. heating oil stocks were now at their lowest level since 1972.

A European trader, however, said Wednesday he was sceptical prices will firm much more in the short-term.

"I expect some resistance at around these levels and don't see WTI (West Texas Intermediate) going much over the \$19 mark for May."

May WTI closed at \$18.77 in New York Tuesday.

The leading Middle East grade, Dubai, was quoted around \$15.85, still below its OPEC reference price of \$17.42 a barrel.

Saudi Arabia has stepped up efforts to capture a larger share in domestic petrol markets worldwide while maintaining output curbs at home to boost crude prices, oil industry sources in the Gulf have said.

"They are looking into every possibility that will allow them to refine and sell oil products in consumer countries," an industry source in the Gulf said.

The search for partners in refining and marketing in consumer countries is part of the kingdom's efforts to secure outlets for its oil at times when world oil demand is low.

Nazer was quoted by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) Tuesday as saying in Dhahran: "The kingdom has started negotiations with a number of parties in Europe and in the Far East for joint ventures for marketing outside the kingdom."

Nazer was attending board meetings of the newly established Saudi Arabian Oil company.

The oil industry sources said Riyadh was interested in refineries and joint ventures from Ireland to Indonesia and Japan.

Oil analysts said it was in contact with French Total-CFP and Elf Aquitaine among other European firms. It had also shown interest in Ireland's Whitegate refinery in Cork harbour.

Saudi Arabia already has a joint venture with Texaco in the United States, called Star Enterprise, to refine and distribute around 600,000 barrels per day

(b/d) of oil products in 23 American states.

Last month, Japan's ministry of international trade and industry said it would not block Saudi joint ventures in Japan.

The kingdom, the world's biggest oil exporter, has also kept its oil output at around 4.7 million b/d in the first two months of 1989, after cutting by almost two million b/d to comply with an OPEC output pact reached last November.

OPEC agreed to cut the group's output by 20 per cent to 18.5 million b/d in the first half of 1989 to boost oil prices. Saudi Arabia was allocated a 4.524 million b/d production quota.

Saudi Arabia says its output is within its OPEC allocation including its share from the Neutral Zone which lies between Kuwait and the kingdom.

"Long term policy of the kingdom is based on a sort of integration in the oil industry that combines production with (products) marketing," SPA quoted as Nazer was saying in Dhahran.

'Gulf Arab capital markets require more development'

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf Arab states should waste no time in developing local capital markets, a Gulf economist has said.

Henry Azzam, senior economist at the Bahrain-based Gulf International Bank, said in a monthly report that local debt and equity markets needed to be expanded and developed to compete with dramatic progress in other regions.

There should be an increase in the supply of shares and the flow of debt instruments and wider participation in secondary markets, he said.

"Time is not on the Gulf's side

in the race to develop local capital markets," he added.

A recent decision by the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council to allow its nationals to trade in the shares of any member state and the opening of stock exchanges in Bahrain and Kuwait later this year would be beneficial, he said.

Gulf states should encourage corporations and banks to issue their own debt instruments, he said.

"Intermediary institutions need to be established to carry out periodic credit analysis on local companies and provide in-

vestors with a ready supply of reliable business information," he added.

He said more stringent reporting practices and an adequate legal system that fully recognised the rights of creditors and protected those of savers and investors were also needed.

"The ultimate aim is to set up a network of competing, yet complementary securities trading centres in the various Gulf countries, all connected electronically to a pan-Gulf exchange that has separate arms in the different countries," Azzam said.

Britain announces cautious budget

LONDON (R) — British Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson has responded to rising inflation and a steep balance of payments deficit by presenting a cautious budget without major tax changes.

"Nigel keeps the lid on," the Daily Mail said Wednesday in a front-page headline echoed by other newspapers and financial analysts.

Lawson, who helped engineer Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's landslide election victory in 1987, launched tax reforms last

year. But the economy heated up and his inflation and balance of payments forecasts went far off the mark.

"There will be no letting up in our determination to get on top of inflation," he told parliament Tuesday, mentioning high interest rates as his main weapon.

He said inflation, currently running at 7.5 per cent, would peak at eight per cent before falling to 5.5 per cent by the end of 1989 and to 4.5 per cent in the spring of 1990.

"As you know, last year (infla-

tion) started to rise again and that won't do," he said in a television address after presenting the budget in the House of Commons.

Lawson said he realised that high interest rates, now at 13 per cent, "make life harder for people with mortgages... but the price of keeping (them) low would be a return to the soaring inflation of the seventies."

He said Britain would continue to run a balance of payments deficit of £14.5 billion (£25 billion) despite a sharp drop in economic growth.

In a post-budget briefing to reporters, he reiterated that he would not let the pound weaken.

Business and financial leaders welcomed Lawson's decision not to add to last year's sweeping tax cuts, which brought the top bracket down from 60 to 40 per cent and the standard rate from 27 to 25 per cent.

The main beneficiaries of the new budget were old age pensioners.

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U.S., UAE resolve textile trade dispute

DUBAI (R) — The United States and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) resolved a row over textile trade Tuesday which had threatened their otherwise good relations.

UAE economy and trade ministry undersecretary Abdul Raouf Al Mubarak announced in the federal capital Abu Dhabi that he signed a new quota agreement for garments exports to the United States with U.S. chief textile negotiator Donald Steinberg.

"I am very pleased that a satisfactory agreement has been reached which addresses the needs and concerns of both countries," said U.S. Ambassador David Mack in a statement on the agreement.

Quota agreements are universal in the international textiles trade to prevent low-cost producers from flooding developed nations' markets.

A boom in garment exports to the United States from the young but rapidly growing UAE textile industry prompted Washington to

unilaterally freeze imports volumes in June, 1988.

UAE exports had then risen from 200,000 dozen, which is the standard lot size in textile trade, in 1985 to 570,000 dozen.

The UAE industry was selling up to 90 per cent of its output to the United States and local firms protested that they would have to close many factories if the freeze was sustained.

Both sides declined to detail the new quota, although Mubarak said it took into account forecast production growth.

Manufacturers lobbied for at least two million dozen pieces a year but industry sources said they did not expect to get it.

The local industry sources said the final agreement was most likely about twice the freeze level of 570,000 dozen pieces, although there had been hopes for more.

UAE officials said the U.S. team had made random visits to local factories during their four-day visit to assure themselves the industry's needs were genuine.

EFTA seeks common institutions with EC

OSLO (R) — Leaders of the six-nation European Free Trade Association (EFTA) called Wednesday for closer ties with the European Community (EC) as the EC heads towards a barrier-free internal market.

Winding up a two-day summit, the prime ministers of Norway, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland, Finland and Iceland also urged the setting up of common institutions with the 12-nation Community.

"We are ready to explore various options and ways and means to strengthen the institutional links between the EFTA states

and the EC. We would not exclude any option from the scope of our future dialogue with the EC," they said in a communique.

They said they would look for ways to strengthen their internal decision-making structure so they could approach the EC with a common voice.

The summit, only the fifth since EFTA was formed nearly 30 years ago, was called to work out a common strategy as the EC single market after 1992 approaches.

EFTA states send most of their exports to the Community and are themselves the biggest single

market for EC products.

"We envisage that negotiations would lead to the fullest possible realisation of free movement of goods, services, capital and persons with the aim of creating a dynamic and homogeneous European economic space," the communique said.

Officials said the outcome was a compromise between nations such as Sweden, which wanted to strengthen EFTA-EC ties by introducing a customs union, and others, notably Switzerland, which opposed any weakening of their national autonomy.

The six leaders said EFTA

wanted to build common decision-making and administrative institutions with the EC.

They saw EFTA adding its resources to a common research and development effort to make European industry more competitive.

Resources could be pooled to protect the environment.

They proposed expanding cooperation in education by providing for mutual recognition of examinations and diplomas.

The joint communique also called for increased consultations on monetary and economic policies.

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Bush backs Brady plan

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bush gave his approval Tuesday night to Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady's plan for tackling Third World debt, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

Bush's support for the policy of cutting the value of outstanding loans followed a meeting with Brady and members of the National Security Council, including National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and Secretary of State James Baker.

"The president met this evening for an hour and 20 minutes to consider the Treasury Department's ideas for Third World

debt reduction," Fitzwater said. "The result is that the president fully supports the concepts and processes of debt reduction and economic growth," he said. Fitzwater declined to offer further details of the proposal, but said the views of the Federal Reserve (Fed) Board "were sought and the Fed is supporting it."

The plan envisages the use of World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) money to induce banks to reduce the value of the loans they have made.

Mexico, which owes foreign

creditors \$100 billion, and other major Latin debtors have been urging the treasury for months to throw its weight behind debt reduction and abandon its three-year-old Baker plan of trying to get banks to extend new loans to spur growth in the region.

Baker, who authored the current policy, also gave his approval to Brady's strategy, according to Fitzwater.

Brady publicly outlined his ideas last Friday, but had not given Bush a detailed version of the plan until the meeting at the White House, Fitzwater said.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Tunisia, U.K. sign investment accord

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia and Britain have signed an agreement to promote and protect investments. The agreement provides for international arbitration under the Washington convention of 1965 in the case of an investment dispute. It gives British and Tunisian investors the right to the same treatment as local or any other investors in Tunisia or Britain.

N. Yemen, Iraq agree on oil cooperation

SANAA (R) — North Yemen and Iraq have agreed to consult each other on ways to stabilise world oil markets, Iraqi Oil Minister Isam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi said Wednesday. He was speaking before leaving for South Yemen after a three-day visit to North Yemen where he had talks on oil cooperation with Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Ahmad Ali Al Muhani. "It has been agreed to coordinate and consult to secure stability in world oil markets," the North Yemeni news agency Saba quoted Chalabi as saying. Oil industry sources say North Yemen, which had planned to raise its oil exports to 220,000 barrels per day (b/d) in the first half of 1989, will freeze exports at 190,000 b/d.

Oman, Iran from joint committee

NICOSIA (R) — Oman and Iran have set up a joint committee to boost cooperation in trade, industry and transport, the Omani News Agency has said.

Vietnam devalues dong again

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Vietnam has devalued its currency, the dong, by 28.57 per cent against the U.S. dollar, an official media report seen Wednesday said. The Voice of Vietnam radio said Tuesday the dong was devalued the previous day from 3,500 dong to 4,500 dong to the dollar. The currency has been devalued several times in recent months in an attempt to bring it closer to the free-market rate of about 5,300 to the dollar. Vietnamese officials have said the artificial official exchange rate has blocked efforts to attract foreign investment.

U.S. trade deficit narrows to \$9.49b

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. merchandise trade deficit narrowed to \$9.49 billion in January, as the nation posted a rare trade surplus with Western Europe and the imbalance with Japan declined to its lowest point in almost four years, the government reported Wednesday.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, March 15, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	338.0	342.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	413.1	417.6
Pound Sterling	927.5	936.6	Dutch guilder	255.7	258.3
Deutschemark	288.7	291.6	Swedish crown	84.4	85.1
Swiss franc	336.6	340.9	Italian lira (for 100)	39.3	39.7
French franc	85.2	86.0	Belgian franc (for 10)	137.9	139.3

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7222/32	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1950/60	Canadian dollar	
	1.8650/57	Deutschemark	
	2.1043/53	Dutch guilders	
	1.5987/97	Swiss francs	
	39.02/06	Belgian francs	
	6.3175/225	French francs	
	1368/1369	Italian lire	
	130.20/30	Japanese yen	
	6.3820/70	Swedish crowns	
	6.7900/50	Norwegian crowns	
	7.2700/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	394.00/394.50	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The market sank, despite support for gold stocks, on low volume ahead of Thursday's release of Australian trade figures. The All Ordinaries index fell 3.5 to 1,490.0.

TOKYO — Prices surged upwards in active, broad-based trading. Investors were encouraged by news of an unexpected 0.4 per cent fall in U.S. February retail sales. The Nikkei index gained 376.13 to 32,100.48.

HONG KONG — The market followed Tokyo's surge and closed stronger on the highest turnover for a month. The Hang Seng index rose 61.12 to 3,095.91.

SINGAPORE — The market soared to a post-crash high in hectic trading on record turnover. Dealers said sentiment was still bullish. The Straits Times industrial index jumped 12.04 to 1,179.91.

BOMBAY — Prices recovered to close mixed on scattered short-covering after falling sharply in the past two days. Brokers said news that the Calcutta exchange was working out a solution to a lingering payment crisis helped market sentiment.

FRANKFURT — Shares closed firmer in moderate trading as the spotlight stayed fixed on blue chips. The DAX index rose 5.25 to 1,334.75.

ZURICH — Prices closed slightly firmer on moderate volume but trading livened up towards the end of the session. The all-share Swiss index rose 2.7 to 990.1.

PARIS — Prices recovered from a weaker morning opening, buoyed by hopes that interest rates could be held down worldwide and some encouraging corporate news.

LONDON — Share prices ended the day weaker but off earlier lows, helped by Wall Street's gains on the back of a smaller than expected January U.S. trade deficit. At 1544 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 10.3 to 2,115.1.

NEW YORK — Stocks levelled off in mid-morning from earlier gains, along with bond prices. Brokers said investors began to see the trade data, while favourable, as no major buy indication. The Dow was up five at 2,311.



Scenes from the Kosovo pits — although most miners came out of the mines in late February, miners have refused to return to work.

Tensions mount in Kosovo

BELGRADE (AP) — Ethnic Albanian miners in Yugoslavia's troubled southern province of Kosovo Wednesday continued to defy government orders to resume work amid signs of mounting unrest in the region.

Sources and the state media reported more protests against planned constitutional changes and the arrest of prominent ethnic Albanians were taking place in the region.

The walkouts of about 2,000 workers at three key Kosovo mines, the Stari Trg and Kiskica lead-zinc mines, and the Golems magnesite mine, continued with many miners refusing to enter the pits and staging sit-ins in their respective company canteens.

Earlier this week they were served with official work orders, in accordance with a partial state of emergency imposed by the country's leadership last month in

Kosovo, threatening them with jail if they fail to comply. Under Yugoslav law "compulsory work orders," which can be issued "in wartime or during imminent danger of war," are equivalent to being called up for military reserve duty.

Also supporting the miners strike were 120 workers of a Kosovo textile mill in the provincial town of Gnjilane, said Belgrade's Politika Ekspres newspaper.

Hundreds of school students boycotted classes in numerous schools in the province, a source in Kosovo's capital of Pristina, who declined to be identified, told the AP.

There are indications that ethnic Albanians in Urosevac, a Kosovo town about 250 kilometres south of Belgrade, are planning to stage a general strike in support of the miners, he said.

Many ethnic Albanians oppose the constitutional changes, scheduled to be adopted by Kosovo's regional assembly March 24, that would give Yugoslavia's largest republic of Serbia a greater say in provincial affairs.

The miners' strike began Feb. 21, with a sit-in by about 1,300 Stari Trg miners who occupied their pits for eight straight days, demanding the resignations of three provincial leaders who have backed the constitutional reforms.

Several prominent ethnic Albanian politicians and businessmen, including Azem Vllasi, a former Kosovo party leader, were subsequently arrested on suspicion of incitement to strike.

The miners were soon joined by ethnic Albanians in hundreds of state companies and private businesses throughout Kosovo.

Moscow expels U.S. attache in tit-for-tat move

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Kremlin has ordered a U.S. assistant military attache to leave the country in retaliation for the U.S. expulsion of a Soviet diplomat on espionage charges, an official spokesman said Wednesday.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady I. Gerasimov said army Lieutenant-Colonel Daniel Francis van Gundy III, an assistant military attache at the U.S. embassy in Moscow, had been given 48 hours to leave the country.

Gerasimov said van Gundy, who had been assigned to the embassy for about two years, the normal Moscow diplomatic tour, was declared unwelcome because he engaged in espionage.

His expulsion follows the U.S. government's announcement Thursday that it had ordered Soviet Lieutenant-Colonel Yuri N. Pakhtusov to leave the United States. Pakhtusov and van Gundy hold the same military rank and filled the same jobs in each of

their embassies.

Gerasimov, at a hastily called briefing, charged that van Gundy attempted to "enter a closed area, deliberately diverting from the officially permitted route, clandestinely photographed military sites and committed other gross violations" of the rules of diplomatic conduct.

U.S. embassy spokesman Richard Gilbert rejected the Soviet charges against van Gundy, saying they were "unwarranted, inappropriate, without justification and certainly in no way in keeping with the positive tone of the U.S.-Soviet relationship."

Gilbert, the embassy press attache, denied the 42-year-old U.S. army officer had engaged in

activities inconsistent with his work as a diplomat and suggested the Soviet action was simply in retaliation for the U.S. expulsion of Pakhtusov.

Van Gundy declined to answer questions from reporters as he walked from lunch at the new U.S. embassy compound to his office in the old U.S. embassy.

"No comment," said van Gundy, who wore a tan raincoat and black cap.

He specifically refused to comment on Gerasimov's allegation that "warnings had already been issued to the lieutenant-colonel."

"The U.S. administration is revealing its foreign policy, and we have this problem of spy mania," Gerasimov told reporters. He cited a recent Time magazine cover story on the 1987 marine spy scandal in Moscow and said there had been other attempts to incite fears of espionage by unnamed U.S. leaders uninterested in improving U.S.-Soviet relations.

"We're not the ones who initiated this process," the foreign ministry spokesman said, tacitly acknowledging the connection between last week's incident and the expulsion of van Gundy.

Using almost the same words Gilbert used to denounce van Gundy's expulsion, Gerasimov said the U.S. expulsion last week was "a provocation, uncalled for and unjustified. It does not fit in with the trend or the positive development of Soviet-American relations."

He also called the expulsion of the Soviet military officer "an artificially cooked scenario clumsily carried out by the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation)." Pakhtusov was accused of receiving sensitive information about how the U.S. government protects computer secrets. The State Department said he was caught in a six-month probe after he approached an unidentified U.S. employee of a firm that deals in classified information.

Botha returns to work

CAPE TOWN (AP) — Embattled President P.W. Botha returned to work Wednesday after an eight week recuperation from a stroke, meeting with his cabinet ministers after they signalled their wish for a new head of state.

Reporters were kept at a distance as Botha arrived at his office shortly before the cabinet meeting began.

Botha has yet to comment publicly on a declaration by the National Party parliamentary caucus, including the full cabinet, that it wants the new party leader, Education Minister Frederik de Klerk, to be president.

Botha, 73, resigned as party leader Feb. 2, two weeks after his stroke, and was succeeded by de Klerk, 52.

Botha said he wanted to distance the presidency from partisan politics so he could be more of a symbol of national unity, but the caucus announced Monday that it wanted the party leader to be head of state.

The caucus has no formal means of forcing Botha out of the presidency, barring evidence of



W.P. Botha

misconduct or incapacity which could prompt impeachment proceedings.

Thus Botha has the option of remaining in office against the wishes of his party or deciding on his own to step aside after heading the government since 1978.

The power struggle intensified Sunday, when Botha arranged an interview with the state-controlled television network and said he would not call an early election this year.

The next election does not have to be held until March 1990. Botha's statement, made without consulting party leaders, quashed hopes that he would retire in the next few months in conjunction with an early election.

Managua frees Somoza guards

MANAGUA (AP) — The National Assembly Tuesday approved amnesty for 1,933 former members of the national guard, most of whom had been jailed since the Sandinista revolution of July 1979.

Among those given amnesty were 39 former guardsmen, including three lieutenant colonels, whose names did not appear on a list of 1,894 prisoners that President Daniel Ortega recommended be granted amnesty.

Ortega announced last month that he would recommend that the assembly grant the amnesties.

The prisoners are to be released in a ceremony Sunday at the prison in Tipitapa, 22 kilometres east of the capital. Joao Baena Soares, secretary-general of the Organisation of American States (OAS), is expected to attend. Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo may also be there.

The Sandinista-dominated legislature approved the mass amnesty, 68-4, with two members abstaining.

The vote came after an intense

five-hour debate, during which the opposition argued for the amnesty of those on the original list submitted by Ortega, along with 39 others.

Several Sandinista deputies argued against the release, saying the prisoners committed unpardonable crimes when they served under President Anastasio Somoza.

Somoza fled Managua, July 17, 1979, two days before the Sandinistas marched triumphantly into the capital. He was later assassinated in exile.

The National Assembly's Committee on Human Rights and Peace had examined the list and earlier determined that 39 prisoners had committed "atrocious crimes" against the Nicaraguan people and "had not demonstrated will to change their ways."

But during Tuesday's debate, opposition representatives noted that the OAS's inter-American Commission on Human Rights had recommended that the leftist Sandinista government free all jailed former guardsmen.

Kampuchea's resistance seeks unity

PEKING (R) — Kampuchea's fragmented guerrilla forces announced Tuesday they would form a unified military command but revealed serious differences still existed between them.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, leader of the guerrillas fighting Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea, said the three-faction coalition had agreed to form a United Front called the National Resistance of Cambodia (Kampuchea).

He told reporters he would be supreme commander of a "high council for national defence," with Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan and former Premier Son Sann as his deputies.

The three men held a joint news conference in Peking in what Western diplomats said was an unconvincing attempt to portray unity.

Vietnam invaded Kampuchea in 1978 to oust the Khmer Rouge, blamed for more than a million deaths during four years in power, and has pledged to remove its troops by 1990.

The United Nations still recognises the guerrilla coalition as the government of Kampuchea.

Sihanouk said an "Afghan-style scenario" could develop in Kampuchea with the Phnom Penh government under Prime Minister Hun Sen left surrounded by guerrillas after his Vietnamese backers withdrew.

"One day not in the very distant future we are going to achieve a merger of our three armies to set up a national army of Kampuchea," the 66-year-old prince said. "We need to set up a United Front to be stronger in meeting the enemies."

The defence council also needed to resolve internal problems, a joint statement said.

The three armies would remain "independent" and keep their own commanders, Sihanouk added. "For the time being we have the national defence council. That does not mean I can control 100 per cent the army of the Khmer Rouge."

Sihanouk pointed to Khieu Samphan sitting beside him and warned him he would fight the Khmer Rouge if they allowed their former leader Pol Pot to play a role in Kampuchea again.

"We are not sure we would win," Sihanouk said, because

he had 21,000 troops to the Khmer Rouge's 40,000.

"We will fight them, fight them in order to prevent Mr. Pol Pot from returning to power," Sihanouk promised.

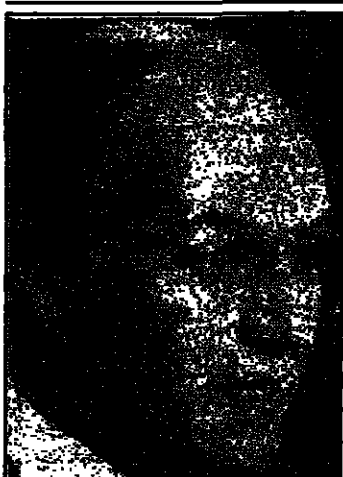
He recalled that the Khmer Rouge, whose victims during their bloody reign included members of Sihanouk's family, had attacked his forces in the past.

Looking across at a smiling Khieu Samphan, Sihanouk said he would quit the coalition again, as he did last year, if Khmer Rouge troops turned on his own army.

Khieu Samphan — Pol Pot's former deputy — laughed as Sihanouk said the Khmer Rouge had agreed Pol Pot would not be allowed to take a post in a future Kampuchean government.

Western diplomats said they believed Pol Pot was hiding in the jungles of western Kampuchea, holding no official position in the Khmer Rouge but still wielding influence.

Sihanouk also disclosed that Son Sann's army was split because of a "disident colonel." He gave no details and Son Sann declined to say how many troops he commanded.



Dick Cheney

Speedy confirmation for Cheney

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Defence Secretary-designate Dick Cheney won praise from Republicans and Democrats on the Senate Armed Services Committee with members predicting speedy confirmation of President George Bush's replacement for John Tower.

The panel resumes public hearings Wednesday on the 48-year-old Wyoming congressman's nomination after an early morning, closed session to review Cheney's personal background and health record.

On the opening day of hearings Tuesday, Cheney submitted a letter from his cardiologist, Dr. Allan M. Ross of the George Washington University Medical Centre, stating that the nominee is "fit to accept any position requiring the highest intellectual behaviour and physical performance."

Cheney has suffered three heart attacks and underwent coronary bypass surgery last year. Senators saw no roadblocks to confirmation of Cheney as they tried to put ill feelings from the rancorous, partisan debate over the Tower nomination behind them. Bush announced the selection of Cheney Friday, one day after the Senate defeated the nomination of Tower, a former Texas Senator, 53-47.

Members of the armed services panel suggested Tuesday that the confirmation process could be wrapped up by week's end, when the Senate breaks for a two-week recess.

"I'm delighted with this nomination," said Senator James Exon of Nebraska, second-ranking Democrat on the panel. "I hope this confirmation goes quickly and I believe it will."

Soweto mourns lost youth

By Andrew Steele
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — For the children of Soweto, the traumas of youth pale to nothing when set beside their constant exposure to murder, rape and gang violence.

At an age when most young people worry only about homework, parents and the opposite sex, the children of South Africa's biggest black township have much worse to contend with.

In a recent book entitled "Give Us A Break," writer and poet Mbuyiseni Oswald Mtshali lets 12- to 14-year-olds use their own words to recount everyday life in the township which has become synonymous with anti-apartheid resistance.

The children, pupils at a Soweto school, tell in naive and clumsy words a story of violence, cruelty and poverty which few people outside the townships could imagine.

"Left school, went home — while I was talking saw taxi drivers, they fought one another — they broke windows — the others was holding knives. They stab each other, four was dead," recounts one 13-year-old girl.

"This township is dirty, it smells so bad. I wonder how the folks here live in such a mess," one boy says.

It is a picture in sharp contrast to the official sanitised image of Soweto, which welcomes busloads of tourists to areas which three years ago were torn apart by anti-apartheid protest.

"Going to school, I saw the

Bayon Greens (street gang) going to fight against the people who live at Dube hostel. They were carrying axes and knives with them. We were all frightened and ran away," writes 13-year-old M.N.

"Going back home, I saw four policemen hitting two boys in the street. They took them to the police station," she added in her entry for the same day.

Knife fights and gang rivalries are a constant motif on the way to and from school.

"On my way home, saw two men fighting with knives. The other was bleeding hard... I don't believe he will live. Went home and wrote my homework," says 14-year-old I.M.

"Going to school, I saw many people looking at a dead person. And many people were looking at him sadly. So they took him to the mortuary," M.N. relates matter-of-factly.

One 12-year-old girl tells of finding a baby abandoned on a plastic bag on the rubbish bin, and how the image haunts her.

"We saw a plastic bag — took it — inside it there was a baby — don't know whether it was a boy or girl — took it — before arrived home — my sister said — must throw it away — threw it — go home," H.M. writes.

"In the evening — saw the plastic (bag) again — now that baby was crying — though it was another baby," she continues, describing the nightmare which plagued her that night.

The same girl goes on to describe how she witnesses in

the next two weeks a police attack on her sister's boyfriend, a shop hold-up, an arson attack in which several people die, and how her father knocked down a pregnant woman in his car.

A 14-year-old boy describes how a neighbourhood party turns violent and ends in rape. "Drunkards were going up and down shouting and making funny things. At last I heard the scream of a girl. Then I saw myself, surely it must be one of those small girls, they are trying to rape her," he says.

"Give Us A Break," published by Skotaville, a non-profit-making South African educational publishers, does not preach politics other than reflecting the thoughts and passing comments of the young authors.

But the political message is strong.

"Cleaned the house and made a fire. I think this is a bad year than other years. There are many killings, rape, murder. Other people died from sick nerves, others from burnt houses and others from knives," one boy writes.

"It seems to be a year of sacrifices... went to bed after I washed the dishes," he continues prosaically.

"Ignorance will destroy our nation," writes another.

White South African society, which normally reads or hears little of the grim realities of township life, has reacted sympathetically to "Give Us A Break," describing the book as a valuable lesson about the racially-divided country.

COLUMN

Paris covers up — designers shun legs

PARIS (R) — Apparently taking to heart Coco Chanel's maxim that the knees are the ugliest parts of a woman's body, Paris designers opened eight days of autumn and winter ready-to-wear collections Wednesday. Designers Barbara Bui, Doby Broda and Hiroko Koshino shunned beautiful legs by opting for ankle-length skirts and trouser suits. The trio, who have been based in Paris only for the last five to six years, are still gaining the experience needed to rival world-famous names showing later this week. Their collections were presented to small audiences at expensive hotels around the capital instead of the Marquises catering for up to 2,700 journalists and buyers in the Louvre Museum's courtyard. Bui, a French designer of Vietnamese descent, dressed her young pre-Raphaelite-style models in puritanical style, choosing stark suits in chocolate, black and olive.

Nuns under starter's orders

TRIM, Ireland (R) — Nuns around the world are under starter's orders to exchange their habits for riding breeches and race in an International Nun Run Classic. "We are urging any nuns available for the race to get their whips out and get into training," organiser Sean Dempsey told reporters. "Even if they don't have a suitable pony, we can supply some on the day." The International Nun Run Classic is being staged June 25 at the annual punts races at Trim in central Ireland. The winner's prize is 1,000 punts (\$1,500) — but the first nun past the post will have to donate the purse to charity.

Syrian wears out shoes in march for children

GENEVA (R) — A Syrian father of two has worn out 22 pairs of shoes and plans to go through several dozen more in a global march to protect children from war. Ahmad Mohammad Joubelli, from the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, has already walked 13,000 kilometres through 22 European countries since September 1987. He plans to travel another 77,000 kilometres to 110 more nations in his campaign to draw the attention of governments to the plight of children caught up in war. Joubelli, a 33-year-old physiotherapist, told journalists that children are "the big victims and the most traumatised by armed conflicts." He plans to go to the Arab countries next and then to the Americas, finishing his journey in Hiroshima, Japan, August 7, 1993, the 38th anniversary of the explosion of the first atomic bomb.

Tabloids chide Yorks

LONDON (AP) — London's tabloid newspapers Wednesday accused the Duke and Duchess of York of hitting "the jackpot" in the new British budget which awarded them a 79-per cent pay raise. Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson said Tuesday the couple will receive state income of £155,400 (nearly \$266,000) for the fiscal year beginning April 1, up from £86,500 (\$148,000) this year. It's the second year in a row that Andrew, Queen Elizabeth II's second oldest son, and his wife, the former Sarah Ferguson, received larger increases than any other members of the royal family. "That's rich," said the headline in the Daily Express. "This is the second year running the couple have hit the jackpot." "Young Yorks rise is 10 times rate of inflation," said today. It also noted that their weekly increase of £1,325 (\$2,279) compares with a new weekly tax break of only £4.35 pounds (\$7.48) for the average Briton. "69,000 for Andy (and Nigel) gives the rest of us just 4.35 a week," said the Sun, Britain's largest circulating newspaper. "The grand old duke of York had 10,000 men, but the rather grander younger duke of York and his wife have got use of a £70,000 rise which is better," said the Daily Mirror, referring to the nursery rhyme about one of Andrew's predecessors.

Dog gets sick at baby birth

SURREY, British Columbia (AP) — The new father was fine, but the dog twice got sick and had to leave the delivery room. Rick Oakes and his guide dog, Bryor, were there when Whitney Leanne Oakes was born at Grace hospital in Vancouver. Oakes and his wife, Chantal, both blind, wouldn't have had it any other way.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Nakasone should testify

TOKYO (R) — The elders of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) have decided former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone should testify in a probe into the country's biggest political scandal, major newspapers said Wednesday. LDP leaders decided at a meeting Tuesday that Nakasone must answer questions on the scandal before parliament for the sake of the troubled party. The Yomiuri Shinbun and other papers reported. Nakasone, still a member of parliament, has denied any wrongdoing in connection with the shares-for-favours scandal and refused to testify before parliament.

'Gandhi aide innocent'

NEW DELHI (R) — Most opposition members of India's Lower House of Parliament were suspended Wednesday during an uproar over suggestions that a senior official was involved in the assassination of Indira Gandhi. The speaker of the house took the action to curb wild scenes in parliament following Home (Interior) Minister Buta Singh's defence of R.K. Dhawan, the official at the centre of the row. The opposition members exploded in anger when Singh declared that Dhawan was not involved in any crime or conspiracy over the 1984 assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Indian news agencies said. They went into a frenzy when Singh rejected their demands for the release of a judicial report into the killing and the speaker suspended most opposition members for the rest of the week.

Mufti calls for Rushdie calm

TASHKENT, U.S.S.R. (AP) — The new spiritual leader of millions of Soviet Muslims Wednesday called for restraint in the dispute over Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses." The 36-year-old Mufti said the book should be judged in a forum in which the author was a right to defend himself. Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini has demanded that Rushdie be killed for insulting Muslims in the novel, and others have offered a bounty of up to \$5 million. But Mahamadsadyk Mamayusupov, in an interview with the AP the

day after he was chosen to lead the Muslims of Soviet central Asia, said: "First, in my opinion, it is necessary to pass judgment, and after a judgment is made, to announce a reprimand. 'This is not so simple in Rushdie's absence,' he continued. Mamayusupov said the Muslims of the Soviet Union "are also displeased that Rushdie published a novel in which Islam was insulted." But he added, "I don't know who Rushdie is. I don't know in what circumstances he was writing. Therefore, I can't judge him."

Another Greek official quits

ATHENS (AP) — The government's number two man resigned Tuesday amid allegations of involvement in a scandal in which Premier Andreas Papandreu and other leaders have been accused of taking multi-million-dollar payoffs. Agamemnon Koutsogiorgas, minister to the premier, did not detail the reasons for his resignation. The political opposition had suggested he was involved in the financial improprieties, but Koutsogiorgas has denied wrongdoing. He became the eighth cabinet member to resign over alleged involvement in the scandal, which broke last October. "Having stood by you for 25 years in all democratic struggles... I resign from my position as minister to the prime minister expressing my sensitivity," Koutsogiorgas said in his resignation letter to Papandreu. The contents of the letter were made available to the media. Former banker George Koskotas, now in a U.S. jail awaiting a hearing on a Greek request for his extradition, has alleged that Papandreu and some cabinet members authorised plans to siphon millions of dollars from the Bank of Crete while Koskotas was chairman. He also claimed the politicians received millions in payoffs.

Chile hits Japan ban

TOKYO (R) — Japan's decision to ban Chilean grape imports because of a cyanide poisoning scare was rash and regrettable, Chile's senior diplomat in Tokyo said Wednesday. The Health and Welfare Ministry Tuesday called for a halt to the importation and sale of Chilean grapes following the announcement by the United States and Canada of a ban on all imports of Chilean fruits.